

HOSTAGE

LOUISE WATT

Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — An American executive said he has been held hostage for four days at his medical supply plant in Beijing by scores of workers demanding severance packages like those given to 30 co-workers in a phased-out department.



American Chip Starnes looks out a window after he was taken hostage by workers in, Beijing, China Monday, June 24, 2013.
(AP Photo/Andy Wong)

Chip Starnes, 42, a co-owner of Coral Springs, Florida-based Specialty Medical Supplies, said local officials had visited the 10-year-old plant on the capital's outskirts and coerced him into signing agreements Saturday to meet the workers' demands even though he sought to make clear that the remaining 100 workers weren't being laid off. The workers were expecting wire transfers by Tuesday, he said, adding that about 80 of them had been blocking every exit around the clock and depriving him of sleep by shining bright lights and banging on windows of his office. He declined to clarify the amount, saying he wanted to keep it confidential.

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"Now Is The Time"



US immigration bill clears Senate test

President Barack Obama speaks during a meeting in the Roosevelt Room of the White House in Washington, Monday, June 24, 2013, with CEOs, business owners and entrepreneurs to discuss immigration reform.

(AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais)

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Historic U.S. immigration legislation cleared a key Senate hurdle with votes to spare on Monday, pointing the way to near-certain passage within days for stepped up security along the border with Mexico and a chance at citizenship for millions living in the country illegally. The vote was 67-27, seven more than the 60 needed, with 15 Republicans voting to advance legislation at the top of President Barack

Obama's second-term domestic agenda. The vote came as Obama campaigned from the White House for the bill, saying, "now is the time" to overhaul an immigration system that even critics of the legislation agree needs reform. Immigration reform is possibly Obama's best chance at a major domestic accomplishment during his second term, following setbacks for his administration on gun control and fiscal issues.

But with Republicans divided on the issue, the immigration bill faces a tough battle in the House of Representatives, even if it passes in the Senate later this week. Many Republicans say the immigration bill offers the party a chance to show a more welcoming face to Hispanic voters, an increasingly vital constituency that largely supported Obama and the Democrats in the November elections. Many conservative Republicans in the House majority,

however, assail as amnesty for those who have violated the law. Last-minute frustration was evident among opponents. In an unusual slap at members of his own party as well as Democrats, Republican Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas said it appeared that lawmakers on both sides of the political aisle "very much want a fig leaf" on border security to justify a vote for immigration.

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Angelina Jolie emplores world to end rape in war

EDITH M. LEDERER

Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Angelina Jolie made her debut before the U.N.'s most powerful body as a special envoy for refugees Monday and urged the world's nations to make the fight against rape in war a top priority. The actress told the Security Council that "hundreds of thousands — if not millions — of women, children and men have been raped in conflicts in our lifetimes."

Jolie, a goodwill ambassador for the U.N. high commissioner for refugees, said

the Security Council has witnessed 67 years of wars and conflict since it was established "but the world has yet to take up warzone rape as a serious priority."

"You set the bar," she told the council. "If the ... council sets rape and sexual violence in conflict as a priority it will become one and progress will be made. If you do not, this horror will continue."

British Foreign Secretary William Hague, who presided over the meeting, stressed that "in conflicts in nearly every corner of the globe, rape is used systemati-

cally and ruthlessly, in the almost certain knowledge that there will be no consequences for the perpetrators."

Soon after Jolie spoke, the council adopted a legally-binding resolution demanding the complete and immediate cessation of all acts of sexual violence by all parties to armed conflict. It noted that sexual violence can constitute a crime against humanity and a contributing act to genocide, called for improved monitoring of sexual violence in conflict, and urged the U.N. and do-

nors to assist survivors.

It was the broadest resolution adopted by the council on the sexual violence in conflict. Hague said Britain plans to follow-up by convening a global gathering during the annual General Assembly meeting of world leaders in September to keep up the pressure for action. Hague said at a discussion later at the Ford Foundation that his prime motivation for pressing for global action against sexual violence was the 1990s war in Bosnia, partly because of an adviser but also because of Jolie's 2011

film, "In the Land of Blood and Honey," about former lovers who end up on the opposite sides of the conflict. He said he arranged the film's British premiere at the Foreign Office and has been campaigning with Jolie since then, including a visit to Congo in March, "to move the stigma and the shame from the victim to the perpetrator."

"The time has come for the world to take a strong and determined stand to make clear that the systematic use of rape as a weapon is not acceptable in the modern world and our objective is to change the entire global attitude to these issues," Hague said.

Getting the whole world talking about sexual violence in conflict and the need to punish perpetrators not victims "will shift attitudes — maybe over a period of years, but we have begun," he said.

Jolie, who has traveled extensively in her role as goodwill ambassador, recalled several of the survivors she had met — the mother of a five-year-old girl raped outside a police station in Goma in eastern Congo, and a Syrian woman she spoke to in Jordan last week who asked to hide her name and face "because she knew that if she spoke out about the crimes against her she would be attacked again, and possibly killed."

"Let us be clear what we are speaking of: Young girls raped and impregnated before their bodies are able to carry a child, causing fistula," Jolie said, referring to an injury caused by violent rapes that tear apart the flesh separating the bladder and rectum from the vagina, leaving the girls unable to control their bowels or bladder. She continued: "Boys held at gunpoint and forced to sexually assault their mothers and sisters. Women raped with bottles, wood branches and knives to cause as much damage as possible. Toddlers and even babies dragged from their homes, and violated." □



U.S. actress and UNHCR Special Envoy Angelina Jolie holds a press conference with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees as they mark World Refugee Day in Al-Zaatari Refugee Camp for Syrian refugees on June 20, 2013 near Mafraq, Jordan.

(Handout Photo)

AP sources:

Obama said to limit carbon at power plants

JOSH LEDERMAN

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama's national plan to combat climate change will include the first-ever regulations to limit carbon dioxide emissions from existing power plants, as well as increased production of renewable energy on public lands and federally assisted housing, environmental groups briefed on the plan said Monday.

In a major speech Tuesday at Georgetown University, Obama will announce that

he's directing his administration to allow enough renewables on public lands to power 6 million homes by 2020, effectively doubling the capacity from solar, wind and geothermal projects on federal property. He'll also say the U.S. will significantly expand production of renewable energy on low-income housing sites, according to five individuals briefed on the plan, who were not authorized to discuss it publicly ahead of Obama's announcement and spoke on condition of anonymity.

The far-reaching plan marks Obama's most prominent effort yet to deliver on a major priority he laid out in his first presidential campaign and re-committed to at the start of his second term: to fight climate change in the U.S. and abroad and prepare American communities for its effects. Environmental activists have been irked that Obama's high-minded goals never materialized into a comprehensive plan. In taking action on his own — none of the steps Obama will announce

Tuesday require congressional approval — Obama is also signaling he will no longer wait for lawmakers to act on climate change, and instead will seek ways to work around them.

The lynchpin of Obama's plan, and the step activists say will have the most dramatic impact, involves limits on carbon emissions for new and existing power plants. The Obama administration has already proposed controls on new plants, but those controls have been delayed and not yet finalized. □



American Chip Starnes, co-owner of Specialty Medical Supplies, waves from a window after he was held hostage by workers inside his plant at the Jinyurui Science and Technology Park in Qiao Zi township of Huairou District, on the outskirts of Beijing, China Monday, June 24, 2013.

(AP Photo/Andy Wong)

US boss held hostage by workers in Beijing

Continued from Front

"I feel like a trapped animal," Starnes told The Associated Press on Monday from his first-floor office window, while holding onto the window's bars. "I think it's inhumane what is going on right now. I have been in this area for 10 years and created a lot of jobs and I would never have thought in my wildest imagination something like this would happen."

Workers inside the compound, a pair of two-story buildings behind gates and hedges in the Huairou district of the northeastern Beijing suburbs, repeatedly declined requests for comment, saying they did not want to talk to foreign media.

It is not rare in China for managers to be held by workers demanding back pay or other benefits, often from their Chinese owners, though occasionally also involving foreign bosses. The labor action reflects growing uneasiness among workers about their jobs amid China's slowing economic growth and the sense that growing labor costs make the country less attractive for some foreign-owned factories. The account about local officials coercing Starnes to meet workers' demands — if true — reflects how officials typically consider stifling unrest to be a priority.

Huairou district and Qiaozi township governments declined to comment.

A local police spokesman said police were at the scene to maintain order. Four uniformed police and about a dozen other men who declined to identify themselves were standing across the road from the plant.

"As far as I know, there was a labor dispute between the workers and the company management and the dispute is being solved," said spokesman Zhao Lu of the Huairou Public Security Bureau. "I am not sure about the details of the solution, but I can guarantee the personal safety of the manager." Representatives from the U.S. Embassy stood outside the gate much of the day, and eventually were let in. U.S. Embassy spokesman Nolan Barkhouse said the two sides were on the verge of an agreement and that Starnes would have access to his attorneys. It was unclear what agreement might be reached, and subsequent attempts to contact Starnes were not immediately successful.

Christian Murck, president of the American Chamber of Commerce in China, said he wasn't familiar with Starnes' case, but that such hostage-taking was "not a major problem" for the foreign business community. □

Snowden not on flight to Cuba

FERNANDO GONZALEZ

Associated Press

HAVANA (AP) — Confusion over the whereabouts of National Security Agency leaker Edward Snowden grew on Monday after a jetliner flew from Moscow to Cuba with an empty seat booked in his name. Aeroflot said earlier that Snowden had registered for the flight using his U.S. passport, which the United States recently annulled. The founder of the WikiLeaks secrets-spilling organization, Julian Assange, insisted he couldn't go into details about where Snowden was, but said he was safe.

Snowden has applied for asylum in Ecuador, Iceland and possibly other countries, Assange said.

An Aeroflot representative who wouldn't give her name told The Associated Press that Snowden didn't board Flight SU150 to Havana, which was filled with journalists trying to track him down.

Two AP journalists on the flight confirmed after it arrived Monday evening in Havana that Snowden wasn't on the plane.

A member of the Aeroflot crew spoke briefly to reporters gathered outside Havana's Jose Marti International Airport, but would not give his name. "No special people on board," he said, smiling. "Only journal-

ists."

Security around the aircraft was heavy prior to boarding in Moscow and guards tried to prevent the scrum of photographers and cameramen from taking pictures of the plane, heightening speculation that Snowden might have been secretly escorted on board.

But about two dozen journalists who made the flight searched up and down the plane after boarding in a fruitless hunt for Snowden. One increasingly desperate Russian television reporter was briefly convinced that AP reporter Max Seddon might be the NSA leaker. When the journalists realized Snowden wasn't there, they settled in for a long haul flight to Cuba for nothing. Some read, others chatted.

"A substantial percentage of people on board were journalists," Seddon said. "The flight would have been empty without us."

A Cuban who was on the plane, Eulalio Pena, also said there was no sign of Snowden.

"We didn't see him," Pena said, adding that it was a flight "with no turbulence, and no alcohol."

Security also was tight at the Havana airport, where Cuban officers forced journalists waiting for the flight to arrive to move outside. Snowden had not been

seen since he arrived in Moscow on Sunday from Hong Kong, where he was in hiding for several weeks to evade U.S. justice and left to dodge efforts to extradite him.

After spending a night in Moscow's Sheremetyevo Airport, he had been expected to fly to Cuba and Venezuela en route to possible asylum in Ecuador.

Experts said it was likely the Russians were questioning Snowden on what he knew about U.S. electronic espionage against Moscow.

"If Russian special services hadn't shown interest in Snowden, they would have been utterly unprofessional," Igor Korotchenko, a former colonel in Russia's top military command turned security analyst, said on state Rossiya 24 television.

Interfax quoted an unidentified "well-informed source" in Moscow as saying that Russia received a U.S. request to extradite Snowden and responded by saying it would consider that. But the same source said Russia could not detain and extradite Snowden since he hadn't technically crossed the Russian border. The Kremlin has previously said Russia would be ready to consider Snowden's request for asylum.

Justice Department officials in Washington did not respond to an email seeking comment. □



The Aeroflot Airbus A330 plane that was to carry National Security Agency leaker Edward Snowden on a flight to Havana, Cuba, taxis out at Sheremetyevo airport, Moscow, Monday, June 24, 2013. Snowden, who arrived in Moscow on Sunday from Hong Kong, booked a seat for the flight to Cuba, but he was not seen on the plane.

(AP Photo/ Sergei Ivanov)



Affirmative Action:

Lacking definitive ruling, both sides claim victory

JOHN SCHWARTZ
RICHARD PÉREZ-PEÑA
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WASHINGTON - The Supreme Court's decision to send a thorny affirmative action case back to the lower courts for additional review left both sides claiming victory Monday. Civil rights groups that favor race-conscious admissions cheered the ruling, arguing that the court had upheld its 2003 decision in *Grutter v. Bollinger*. That decision supported the principle that states have a compelling interest in achieving student diversity but required that any plan to include race as a factor in admissions should be subjected to strong scrutiny. "We're gratified that the court has essentially upheld that framework," said Sherrilyn Ifill, president of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund. Edward Blum, the man who has been the driving force behind the challenge to the University of Texas, Austin, ruled on by the court, scoffed at the claims of a victory from groups that support affirmative action. "If they are excited about this ruling," he said, "I think it's gravely misplaced." The decision, Blum said, "begins the restoration of the original colorblind principles to our nation's civil rights laws" and will

both hasten the end of racial preferences in schools across the nation and unleash a flood of lawsuits. Under the justices' requirement that racial distinctions in admissions be subjected to a tough constitutional

the University of Chicago. He said a trial, potentially followed by another round of appeals, could mean the case will remain in the spotlight for years. "It looks like the case has to turn on the specific facts," he said.

ing, every university in the country was already thinking about all of the alternatives, depending on the outcome of the case, and about how to prove whether a policy is working," said Joanne E. Berg,

Justice Anthony M. Kennedy is tougher than that of Justice Sandra Day O'Connor's opinion in the 2003 *Grutter* case, "in terms of the law it always has been established that strict scrutiny requires proof that no less discriminatory alternative can suffice," he said. So while Chemerinsky expects to see more litigation against state universities, "I don't think it will be a 'floodgates' because this case changed so little, and the real issue will be what happens on remand and when it gets back to the Supreme Court." The Texas plan, however, may not survive, said Vinay Harpalani, a visiting assistant professor of law at the Chicago-Kent College of Law at the Illinois Institute of Technology. Because previous votes at the Court of Appeals were close, he noted, the tougher review could lead the district court or the 5th Circuit to strike down the Texas policy. Eight states have already banned consideration of race in admissions to their public colleges: Arizona, California, Florida, Michigan, New Hampshire, Nebraska, Oklahoma and Washington, although Michigan's law has been suspended by a court ruling and will be weighed by the Supreme Court later this year. □



Students and visitors at the University of Texas in Austin, June 24, 2013. The Supreme Court's decision to send the thorny affirmative action case involving the university back to the lower courts for additional review has left both sides claiming victory on Monday.

(Ben Sklar/The New York Times)

test, he said, "it is very unlikely that most institutions will be able to overcome these hurdles." Experts without a strong stake in the case said that neither side should feel fully triumphant, and that the issue was far from resolved. "For supporters of affirmative action, I'd put it in the category of disaster averted rather than victory achieved," said David A. Strauss, a law professor at

"The court really wants the lower courts to get deep into it, and that suggests a trial." Major state universities reacted cautiously, with most either declining to comment or saying they were still trying to make sense of the ruling. Administrators said that the decision would have no effect for now, but that the case - and the issue - was not dead. "Prior to this particular rul-

vice provost for enrollment at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. "I don't think that should change, and I don't think it will." How much has actually changed with Monday's decision is questionable, said Erwin Chemerinsky, founding dean of the law school at the University of California, Irvine. While the tone of the opinion in the *Fisher v. University of Texas* case written by



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US immigration bill clears Senate test

Continued from Front

Some Republican lawmakers have appealed to the leader of the House, Speaker John Boehner, not to permit any immigration legislation to come to a vote for fear that whatever its contents, it would open the door to an unpalatable compromise with the Senate. At the same time, the House Judiciary Committee is in the midst of approving a handful of measures related to immigration, action that ordinarily is a prelude to votes in the full House.

Obama made clear he hoped that a big victory for immigration in the Senate would ease its passage in the House.

"Now is the time to do it," Obama said at the White House before meeting with nine business executives who support a change in immigration laws.

He added, "I hope that we can get the strongest possible vote out of the Senate so that we can then move to the House and get this done before the summer break" beginning in early August.

He said the measure would be good for the economy, for business and for workers who are "oftentimes exploited at low wages."

Opponents saw it otherwise.

"It will encourage more illegal immigration and must be stopped," Cruz exhorted supporters via email, urging them to contact their own senators with a plea to defeat the measure.

The non-partisan Congressional Budget Office has estimated the legislation will reduce the deficit and increase economic growth in each of the next two decades. It is also predicting unemployment will rise slightly through 2020, and that average wages will move lower over a decade.

At its core, the legislation in the Senate would create a 13-year pathway to citizenship for an estimated 11 million immigrants living illegally in the United States.

It also calls for billions of dollars to be spent on manpower and technology to secure the 2,000-mile border with Mexico, including a doubling of the Border Patrol with 20,000 new agents.

The measure also would create a new program for temporary farm laborers to come into the country, and another for lower-skilled workers to emigrate permanently. At the same time, it calls for an expansion of an existing visa program for highly-skilled workers, a gesture to high tech companies that rely heavily on foreigners.

In addition to border security, the measure phases in a mandatory program for employers to verify the legal status of potential workers, and separate effort to track the comings and goings of foreigners at some of the nation's airports.

The legislation was originally drafted by a bipartisan Gang of 8, four senators from each party who negotiated a series of political tradeoffs over several months. □



Senate Minority Whip John Cornyn of Texas, right, whose border-security amendment to the Gang of Eight's immigration-reform bill was rejected last week, speaks with Sen. Bob Corker, R-Tenn., on Capitol Hill in Washington, Monday, June 24, 2013.

(AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)



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Tax chief: Inappropriate screening was broad

ALAN FRAM

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. government tax collection agency's screening of groups seeking tax-exempt status was broader and lasted longer than has been previously disclosed, the new head of the agency said Monday.

An internal agency document obtained by The Associated Press said that besides "tea party," lists used by screeners to pick groups for close examination also included the terms "Israel," "Progressive" and "Occupy." The document said an investigation into why specific terms were included was still underway.

In a conference call with reporters, Danny Werfel said that after becoming acting head of the Internal Revenue Service or IRS last month, he discovered wide-ranging and improper terms on the lists and said screeners were still using them. He did not specify what terms were on the lists, but said he suspended the use of all such lists immediately.

"There was a wide-ranging set of categories and cases that spanned a broad spectrum" on the lists, Werfel said. He added that his aides found those lists contained "inappropriate criteria that was in use."

Democrats on the House Ways and Means Committee released 15 lists of terms that the IRS agency used and has provided to congressional investigators. Some of the lists, which evolved over time, used the terms "Progressive" and "Tea Party" and others including "Medical Marijuana," "Occupied Territory Advocacy," "Healthcare legislation," "Newspaper Entities" and "Paying National Debt."

Werfel's comments suggest the IRS may have been targeting groups other than tea party and other conservative organizations for tough examinations to see if they qualify. The agency has been under fire since last month for targeting those groups.

It was not immediately clear what effect the report would have on the



Tea party activists attend a rally on the grounds of the Capitol in Washington to air their grievances against the Internal Revenue Service and their distrust of growing government bureaucracy.

(AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

Obama administration. Republican efforts to link the issue to the White House have not succeeded.

Werfel's comments also indicate that the use of inappropriate terms on such lists lasted longer than has been revealed previously. A report last month by a Treasury Department

inspector general said agency officials abolished targeting of conservative groups with those lists in May 2012.

Werfel said preliminary results of an examination he has conducted of his agency have so far found no indication of improper screening beyond the

IRS offices that examines groups seeking tax-exempt status.

He said he believes there was "insufficient action" by IRS managers to prevent and disclose the problem involving the screening of certain groups, but has discovered no specific clues of misconduct. □

Indiana grain elevator explosion kills 1 worker

UNION MILLS, Indiana (AP)

— An explosion Monday inside a grain elevator killed a worker at a sprawling northwestern Indiana farm co-op, authorities said.

The cause of the blast at the Union Mills Co-op remained unknown Monday evening several hours after the blast. The U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firms

and Explosives and the Indiana Occupational Safety and Health Administration were among the agencies sending investigators to the scene.

It wasn't clear where the victim, James Swank, 67, of Union Mills, was at time of the blast, but he might have been loading grain into train cars with two other workers, Maj. John Boyd of the LaPorte County Sheriff's Department said.

"At this point we're just not sure," Boyd said.

All other employees were accounted for and no other injuries were reported.

Swank died from multiple blunt force trauma, Coroner John Sullivan said. It may have been a grain dust explosion, he said.

"Neighbors reported a large, concussion-like explosion that shook their homes, followed by a large amount of white smoke," Sullivan said.

Purdue University farm safety expert Steve Wettschurack said grain dust is highly volatile, and a small spark, even from someone using a hammer, can set

off a blast, Wettschurack said. "It'll shake the countryside. There's a lot of power to it. But there's not really a lot of fire to it," he said.

The U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration website says more than 500 explosions in grain-handling facilities across the nation over the last 35 years have killed 180 people and injured more than 675. Grain dust is the main source of fuel for explosions in grain handling, the website said.

Shawn Lambert, safety manager for Avon, Indiana-based co-op owner Co-Alliance, says the explosion occurred inside a grain elevator with several connected silos.

Boyd said the co-op property covers several acres and includes storage for hazardous material, including fertilizers and anhydrous ammonia, elsewhere on the site. □



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Ruling favors US transgender girl

NICHOLAS RICCARDI
P. SOLOMON BANDA
Associated Press

DENVER (AP)—Officials say a school district discriminated against a 6-year-old transgender girl by preventing her from using the girls' bathroom, in what advocates described as the first such U.S. ruling in the next frontier in civil rights. Coy Mathis's family raised the issue after school officials at Eagleside Elementary in suburban Colorado Springs said the first-grader could use restrooms in either the teachers' lounge or in the nurse's office, but not the girls' bathroom. Coy's parents feared she would be stigmatized and bullied.

On Monday, the Mathis family and its lawyers celebrated the ruling on the steps of the state capitol. Coy, dressed in a glittering tank top, jeans and pink canvas sneakers, ran around a towering blue spruce tree as her mother spoke to reporters.

"Her future will be better if we get to this place where this is nothing to be ashamed of," Kathryn Mathis said, noting the family hadn't sought a civil rights battle but was happy for the Colorado Division of Civil Rights' ruling.

As the country's gay rights movement has won mounting legal and electoral victories in recent years, advocates hope the latest decision will lend momentum to the struggles of transgendered people.

"This is by far the high-water mark for cases dealing with the rights of transgendered people to access bathrooms," said the Mathis family's attorney, Michael Silverman of the Transgender Legal Defense & Education Fund. □

Zimmerman portrayed as vigilante in shooting

KYLE HIGHTOWER
MIKE SCHNEIDER

Associated Press

SANFORD, Florida (AP)—A prosecutor told jurors in opening statements Monday that a Miami-area neighborhood watch volunteer fatally shot a black teenager "because he wanted to," not because he had to, while the de-

shooting of 17-year-old Trayvon Martin.

Zimmerman, 29, who identifies himself as Hispanic, has denied that the shooting had anything to do with race. His mother was born in Peru. His father is a white American. Martin was black.

But just before opening statements began, Mar-

shortly before the fatal confrontation with Martin: "F----- punks. These a-----. They always get away."

Zimmerman was profiling Martin as he followed him through the gated community where Zimmerman lived and Martin was visiting, Guy said. He said Zimmerman viewed the teen "as someone about

after showing jurors photos taken by Zimmerman's neighbors of a bloodied and bruised neighborhood watch volunteer.

Later, West said it was not true that Martin was unarmed. "Trayvon Martin armed himself with a concrete sidewalk and used it to smash George Zimmerman's head," West said.



George Zimmerman, right, listens to defense attorney Mark O'Mara, left, with co-counsel Don West, center, in Seminole circuit court in Sanford, Fla., Monday, June 24, 2013. Zimmerman has been charged with second-degree murder for the 2012 shooting death of Trayvon Martin.

(AP Photo/Orlando Sentinel, Joe Burbank, Pool)

fendant's attorney said the shooting was carried out in self-defense.

The opposing attorneys squared off on the first day of testimony in a trial that has attracted international attention and prompted nationwide debates about gun control, race, and equal justice under the law.

Included among the millions likely to be following the case are civil rights leaders Jesse Jackson Jr. and the Rev. Al Sharpton, who joined national protests in the weeks before prosecutors filed second-degree murder charges against George Zimmerman 44 days after the

tin's parents sent out an urgent plea to their supporters to pray with them for justice, while their family attorney, Benjamin Crump, described the case as clear cut. "There are two important facts in this case: No. 1: George Zimmerman was a grown man with a gun, and No. 2: Trayvon Martin was a minor who had no blood on his hands. ... We believe that the evidence is overwhelming to hold George Zimmerman accountable for killing Trayvon Martin."

Prosecutor John Guy's first words to jurors recounted what Zimmerman told a police dispatcher in a call

to a commit a crime in his neighborhood."

"And he acted on it. That's why we're here," the prosecutor said.

Zimmerman didn't have to shoot Martin, Guy said.

"He shot him for the worst of all reasons: because he wanted to," he said.

Defense attorney Don West told jurors a different story: Zimmerman was being viciously attacked when he shot Martin, he said. He was sucker-punched by Martin, who then pounded Zimmerman's head into the concrete sidewalk.

"He had just taken tremendous blows to his face, tremendous blows to his head," said West,

West also played for jurors the call to a police dispatcher in which Zimmerman used the obscenities. Martin had opportunities to go home after Zimmerman followed him and then lost track of him, West said, but instead the teen confronted the neighborhood watch volunteer.

The prosecutor described Zimmerman as someone who wanted to be a police officer, and he dismantled the story Zimmerman has told investigators about what happened during the fight between the neighborhood watch volunteer and the Miami-area teen that left Martin dead from a bullet to his chest. □

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Italy's Berlusconi convicted in sex-for-hire trial

COLLEEN BARRY
Associated Press

MILAN (AP) — Silvio Berlusconi, Italy's flamboyant former premier, was sentenced to seven years in prison and banned from politics for life Monday for paying an underage prostitute for sex during infamous "bunga bunga" parties and forcing public officials to cover it up.

It was the most damaging setback yet for the 76-year-old Berlusconi, who has been tried numerous times for his business dealings but never before for his personal conduct.

Still, he vowed that his days as a political force are not over. He has two levels of appeal — and his supporters quickly rallied around him. The charges against the billionaire media mogul resulted from what became widely known in Italy as "bunga bunga" parties hosted in 2010 by Berlusconi, then the sitting premier, at his villa near Milan, where he wined and dined beautiful young women.

Berlusconi's defense described the dinner parties as elegant soirees; prosecutors said they were sex-fueled gatherings that women were paid to attend. The woman at the center of the scandal, Karima el-Mahroug, better known as Ruby, has described aspiring showgirls stripping provocatively for the then-Italian leader. Both Berlusconi and el-Mahroug denied ever having sex, and el-Mahroug says she never worked as a prostitute.

After the verdict, Berlusconi said in a message posted on Facebook that he be-

lieved he would be acquitted "because in the facts there is really no possibility to convict me."

He called the sentence "incredible, of a violence never seen or heard before, to try to eliminate me from the

defense had lied on the stand to protect him.

The panel of three judges, all women, said Berlusconi went beyond using his influence to cover up his relationship with the then-17-year-old Moroccan, as

the gatherings.

Justice Minister Angelino Alfano, who is also secretary of Berlusconi's People of Liberty Party, said he told his political mentor to "hang in there, and keep moving on" in a phone call

nounced it as "an outrage, and a political sentence that has nothing to do with justice." But she also said that it should have no impact on the government.

Some political opponents, however, said Berlusconi, who has shaped political discourse in Italy for two decades, should withdraw from politics immediately.

Alessandro Di Battista, a lawmaker in the anti-establishment 5 Star Movement, said Berlusconi "must go to jail. It is outrageous that he is a senator that can make laws. Until he goes to jail, the country is not free." And the left-leaning governor of Apulia, Nicchi Vendola, said Berlusconi should "abandon public life."

Berlusconi does not have any official role in government, but he is a senator in Parliament and retains influence in the uneasy grand coalition between his forces and the center-left Democratic Party that emerged after inconclusive February elections. The Democratic Party issued a statement acknowledging the sentence and in support of the autonomy of the courts. Berlusconi's high-stakes judicial woes are far from over. He faces a final appeal in a tax fraud conviction for which he has been sentenced to four years in jail and a five-year ban from office.

Roberto D'Alimonte, a political analyst for il Sole 24 Ore daily and professor at Rome's LUISS University, said the tax fraud conviction poses the more immediate threat since Italy's highest court is likely to rule before the statute of limitations runs out. □



An unidentified man closes the main entrance of Silvio Berlusconi's residence in Arcore near Milan, Italy, Monday, June 24, 2013. A Milan court on Monday convicted former Italian Premier Silvio Berlusconi of paying for sex with an underage prostitute during infamous "bunga bunga" parties at his villa and then using his influence to try to cover it up.

(AP Photo/Luca Bruno)

political life of this country." He pledged to "resist this persecution, because I am absolutely innocent, and I don't want in any way to abandon my battle to make Italy a truly free and just country."

The Milan criminal court's ruling was unexpectedly stiff, going further than the original charges and openly questioning whether many of the young women who testified in Berlusconi's

originally charged. They said he stepped in to win her release from police custody when she was accused of theft.

The court also said it was turning over to prosecutors files containing the testimony of more than 30 young women who attended the now-infamous "bunga bunga" parties to investigate if they had lied under oath when they denied a sexual character to

after the verdict.

Berlusconi was not in court for the sentencing, but his lawyer, Niccolo Ghedini, said he would appeal a decision he called both "largely expected" and "out of reality." The Berlusconi camp has long accused Milan magistrates of mounting a campaign to sideline him politically.

Berlusconi loyalist Daniela Santanche, who attended the sentencing, de-

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Greece: Socialists handed key posts in new cabinet

DEREK GATOPOULOS
Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — Members of Greece's minority Socialist party were handed key posts in a cabinet reshuffle Monday, following a political crisis over the decision by Prime Minister Antonis Samaras to shut state broadcaster ERT.

Evangelos Venizelos, leader of the Socialist Pasok party, was named deputy prime minister and foreign minister. Venizelos, as finance minister, led tough negotiations in 2011 with its international creditors.

Samaras' year-old government narrowly avoided collapse after he ordered ERT's closure on June 11. Coalition member Democratic Left quit the government last week. The two-party coalition government now has a slender majority in parliament; it controls 153 seats of the 300 seats. Finance Minister Yannis Stournaras remained in his position to push through more austerity measures and wide-ranging economic reforms.

Greece still faces some of its toughest reforms since being bailed out three years ago by other its euro partners and the International Monetary Fund, who have already paid out most of the 240 billion euros (\$314 billion) in the rescue loan program. ERT's closure was triggered in part by Greece's pledge to fire 15,000 public sector employees by the end of next year.

The Socialists, who had no prominent members in the previous cabinet, have seen their support continue to plummet since the 2012 general elections, with some surveys projecting that its popularity has

dropped to as low as 6.5 percent.

Pasok, along with Samaras' New Democracy, have dominated the Greek political scene for decades but it's the Socialists that have lost the most support since the debt crisis exploded soon after its election victory in 2009, when it won 43.9 percent of the vote. By 2012, Pasok's support had sunk to 12.3 percent against New Democracy's 29.7 percent, which was itself down on 2009's 33.5 percent.

Other senior Socialist officials were granted top posts: Michalis Chrysochoidis becomes transport minister, while Yiannis Maniatis takes the energy brief.

The number of ministries in Samaras' cabinet was increased from 17 to 19 — with the portfolios of culture and merchant marine being upgraded.

One of the main issues confronting the government is how to transition ERT to a new public broadcaster. Former newspaper editor and government spokesman Pantelis Kapsis has been given that responsibility.

State TV and radio signals remain blank, while fired ERT employees are continuing unauthorized broadcasts that are being streamed on the Internet.

The government can stay in power for another three years and will hope that in that time, the country will start to recover from what a deep recession that's sent unemployment to over 27 percent. The government is predicting economic growth next year, by which time the economy will be around 25 percent smaller than it was when the recession started in 2008. □

Egypt's presidency: military won't step in

MAGGIE MICHAEL
Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — An Egyptian presidential spokesman on Monday dismissed an apparent threat by the military to both Egypt's president and opposition that it would step in if political fighting descends into chaos, as president's allies prepare for another mass rally in few days to counter June 30 opposition-led demonstrations. The spokesman,

is no political role for the army." His remarks came a day after Defense Minister Gen. Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi gave the nation's Islamist rulers and their opponents a week to reach an understanding before planned June 30 opposition protests demanding resignation of President Mohammed Morsi. El-Sissi issued a toughly worded warning that the military will intervene to stop the nation from enter-

electricity blackouts and increasing unemployment. They demand that he step down and hold early presidential elections.

Fahmy said that el-Sissi's message, like any other statements from the military, comes in coordination with the presidency.

"These statements were intended to defuse tension," he said. "President Morsi is the supreme commander of the army, and any-



Egyptian Minister of Defense, Lt. Gen. Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi, left, meets with Egyptian President Mohammed Morsi at the presidential headquarters in Cairo, Egypt. El-Sissi has warned that the military is ready to intervene in the nation's internal conflict. An Egyptian presidential spokesman on Monday dismissed the comments.

(AP Photo/M. Abd El Moaty)

Ihab Fahmy, told foreign reporters that the military's mission is guarding the borders and securing vital institutions, and that it has no intention to play any other role.

"There is a president ruling the country in a democratic way, and (through) democratic elections. We can't imagine that the army would come back," Fahmy said. "The army has one role — protecting the borders and securing the strategic institutions. There

ing a "dark tunnel." El-Sissi's statement indicated to Morsi's hard-line backers that the military will step in if protesters are attacked during their demonstrations.

June 30 marks one year since Morsi took office. Opponents charge that Morsi is monopolizing power for his Muslim Brotherhood, excluding others, while failing to make progress toward solving the country's critical problems, like economic malaise, fuel shortages,

thing that happens within the army is coordinated through him and with him." In a statement Monday, the presidency said Morsi chaired a National Security Council meeting, attended by el-Sissi and top officials, stressing that all state institutions are "respecting and protecting the constitutional and legal legitimacy," a reference to the president. Fahmy said Morsi has extended an open-ended invitation for dialogue with opposition. □

Wave of bombings in Iraq kill at least 42

SAMEER N. YACCOUB
Associated Press

BAGHDAD (AP) — A series of evening bombings near

than 2,000 lives since the beginning of April. Militants, building on Sunni discontent with the Shiite-led

of the ninth-century Shiite leader known as the Hidden Imam.

Tight security measures were in force to try to prevent insurgent attacks on the worshippers.

One of the deadliest attacks came at night when two bombs placed near a market blew up less than a minute apart in Baghdad's mostly Shiite neighborhood of Husseiniah, killing ten people and wounding 30 others. Police said the second bomb went off among a group of people who had gathered at the scene to help the victims of the first blast. Bassem Hazim, a merchant from Husseiniah, said he was preparing for night prayers when he heard an explosion. He went out to see what happened.

"As we came near the blast site, a second bomb went off in the crowd.

We helped carry some wounded people to the hospital. All the shops closed and all the shoppers fled, he said, but "government officials are busy with trips abroad and contracts

while the country is bleeding."

Earlier, police said that two car bombs exploded within minutes on a commercial street in the mixed neighborhood of Jihad in western Baghdad, killing nine people and wounding 21 others, police said.

Also, four people were killed and nine others were wounded when a car bomb exploded near a line of shops in the Shiite-dominated area of al-Shurta al-Rabeaa.

Interior Ministry spokesman Saad Maan Ibrahim said that al-Qaida is avoiding direct confrontation with the security forces and instead are choosing civilian targets.

"By attacking soft targets like markets, al-Qaida wants to send a message that they are still active and still capable of striking anywhere in Iraq," he said. Police said car bomb exploded near a supermarket on a main commercial street in the Shiite Karrada neighborhood, killing five people and wounding 16.

□

UK's Cameron wants inquiry of police smears

JAMES BROOKS
Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — British Prime Minister David Cameron called Monday for an immediate investigation into allegations that an undercover police officer was ordered to smear the reputation of the family of a murdered black teenager. The Guardian newspaper published claims Monday that the officer infiltrated anti-racism protest groups to gain information that could discredit the family of 18-year-old Stephen Lawrence.

"To hear that, potentially, the police that were meant to be helping them were actually undermining them — that's horrific," Cameron said in Downing Street. "We must make sure those investigations get rapidly to the bottom of what's happened and we get the full truth out."

Lawrence was stabbed in 1993 and an ensuing inquiry found the Metropolitan Police "institutionally racist" in its response to the killing. It said the Lawrence family had been treated insensitively and unsympathetically by police officers, who deliberately withheld information and denied the murder was a racist attack. Last year, almost 20 years after the murder, two men were convicted for the murder following the discovery of new scientific evidence and covert video footage. One had previously been acquitted in 1996. Three other suspects in the case remain free and deny any involvement in Lawrence's death.

In the Guardian, former undercover officer Peter Francis claimed that he came under constant pressure from his superiors to "hunt for disinformation" that might be used to undermine those arguing for a better investigation into Lawrence's murder. At the time — around the mid 1990s — Francis had been posing as an anti-racism activist for groups such as Youth Against Racism in Europe. □



Civilians inspect the scene of two parked car bombs in a residential area in Tuz Khormato, 130 miles (210 kilometers) north of Baghdad, Iraq.

(AP Photo/ Emad Matti)

markets in and around Baghdad and other blasts north of the capital killed at least 42 people and wounded dozens of others Monday in the latest eruption of bloodshed to rock Iraq.

The attacks were the latest in a wave of violence that has claimed more

government, appear to be growing stronger in central and northern Iraq.

The violence came as tens of thousands of Shiites poured into the holy city of Karbala, 80 kilometers (50 miles) south of Baghdad, for the annual festival of Shabaniyah, marking the anniversary of the birth

Germany investigates commander of Nazi-led unit

GEIR MOULSON
Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — German prosecutors said Monday that they opened a formal preliminary investigation of a Minnesota man who was a commander of a Nazi-led unit during World War II, to determine whether there is enough evidence to bring charges and seek his extradition.

The Associated Press found that 94-year-old Michael Karkoc entered the U.S. in 1949 by lying to American authorities about his role in the SS-led Ukrainian Self Defense Legion, which is accused of torching villages and killing civilians in Poland. AP's evidence indicates that Karkoc was in the area of the massacres, although no records link him directly to atrocities.

Kurt Schrimm, the head of the special German prosecutors' office responsible for investigating Nazi-era crimes, said prosecutors

"have opened a preliminary investigation procedure to examine the matter (and) seek documentation." It was unclear how

whether there is enough evidence against alleged Nazi war criminals for state prosecutors to proceed with a full investigation



Ivan Hrushka, 69, approaches the site of a peasant house - under trees in the distance on the right - where 21 people, including nine children were burned alive on Dec.3, 1943, in his home village of Pidhaisi close to Ukraine's western city of Lutsk. Evidence uncovered by AP indicates that Ukrainian Self Defense Legion commander Michael Karkoc's unit was in the area at the time of the massacre of civilians. There is no indication any other units were in the area at the time.

(AP Photo/Efrem Lukatsky)

long their examination might take.

Schrimm's office is responsible for determining

and possible charges. The only charges that can be brought in such cases are murder and accessory to

murder, as all other offenses fall under the statute of limitations under German law. Germany has taken the position that people involved in Nazi crimes must be prosecuted, no matter how old or infirm, as it did in the case of retired Ohio autoworker John Demjanjuk, who died last year at age 91 while appealing his conviction as a guard at the Sobibor death camp. Poland's National Remembrance Institute, which investigates Nazi and Soviet crimes, has said prosecutors are reviewing files on Karkoc's unit for any evidence that would justify charges and an extradition request.

It says the files were gathered during separate investigations into the killings of civilians in the village of Chlaniow, in southeastern Poland, and into Nazi suppression of the 1944 Warsaw Uprising against German occupation. □

Brazil sets \$23B hike for transit after mass protests

BRADLEY BROOKS

MARCO SIBAJA

Associated Press

SAO PAULO (AP) —

Under pressure after more than a week of nationwide protests, Brazilian leader Dilma Rousseff said Monday her government will spend \$23 billion more on public transportation and announced five core areas that leaders will focus on to speed political reform and improvements to government services.

Rousseff made the announcement after meeting with leaders of a free-transit activist group that launched the first demonstrations more than a week ago and has called for new protests Tuesday. The president also opened a meeting of governors and mayors from 26 capital cities to discuss ways to make deep improvements.

"I mainly want to repeat that my government is listening to democratic voices. We must learn to hear the voices of the street," Rousseff said at the opening of the meeting with governors and mayors. "We all must, without exception, understand these signals with humility and accuracy."

While not providing details, Rousseff said she would push debate about holding a plebiscite on political reform and said all levels of government would focus on five priorities: fiscal responsibility and controlling inflation; political reform; health care; public transport; and education.

Protesters have filled cities across this continent-sized country to air a wide spectrum of grievances including poor public services and billions of dollars of spending to prepare for next year's World Cup soccer tournament and the 2016 Olympics in Brazil.

Mayara Longo Vivian, one of the leaders of the Free Fare Movement who met with Rousseff in Brasilia, said that no concrete measures were given to the group and that their "fight would continue." The movement has been working since 2006 to eliminate public transport fares.

Vivian referred to the billions of dollars Brazil is spending to host the World Cup, saying, "If they have money to build stadiums, they have money for zero tariffs" on public transportation.

"The people are on the street, the left is on the street, with legitimate agendas," she said. "Only with concrete measures from the state will this situation be reversed."

Monday marked the beginning of a more hands-on approach for Rousseff in the face of sharp criticism that she had been too silent during protests last week.

Rousseff only delivered a nationwide address Friday, a week after the protest exploded and a day after a million people took to the streets in at times violent protests.

Since then, the demonstrations have shrunk and become less widespread.

Some scattered protests flared Monday, and two women died after being hit by a car as they tried to block a highway in the state of Goias near the nation's capital. The highway patrol in Goias said the driver of the car fled and is being sought.

Protests in Sao Paulo state also blocked road access to the nation's largest port in Santos, causing a massive backlog of trucks trying to unload products.

In Brasilia, a group of about 300 students protesting against corruption blocked some streets while a protest was expected in Rio de Janeiro later in the evening. The protests have hit as the

ers, though mostly disorganized, were in control thanks to support from the majority of Brazilians as seen in recent polls. That opened a window for concessions on their demands for less corruption and im-

Rousseff referred to Monday. The government has been struggling against both a lagging economy and rising inflation, which economists say require contradictory actions to fix. While the nation's bench-



Brazil's President Dilma Rousseff, center, Chief of Staff, Gleisi Hoffmann, right center, and Brazil's Vice President Michel Temer, center left, sit with governors and mayors representing Brazil's 26 states and its federal district, for a meeting to discuss the wave of protests, at the Presidential Palace, in Brasilia, Brazil, Monday, June 24, 2013.

(AP Photo/Eraldo Peres)

nation hosts the Confederations Cup soccer tournament, seen as a warm-up for the World Cup. Experts said the protest-

provements to the nation's woeful public services. Complicating matters, though, is Brazil's worsening economic climate, which

mark interest rate could be slashed to stoke economic growth, it could also be raised to keep inflation at bay. □

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Snowden is tempting risk for Ecuadoran leader Correa

GONZALO SOLANO M. WEISSENSTEIN PETER ORSI

Associated Press

QUITO, Ecuador (AP) — Ecuador's president and foreign minister declared Monday that national sovereignty and universal principles of human rights would govern their decision on granting asylum to Edward Snowden, powerful hints that the former National Security Agency contractor is welcome here despite potential repercussions from Washington.

Snowden's whereabouts remained a mystery and his application for Ecuadoran asylum was formally just under consideration. Foreign Minister Ricardo Patino, nonetheless, made little effort to disguise his government's position. He told reporters in Hanoi that the choice Ecuador faced in hosting Snowden was "betraying the citizens of the world or betraying certain powerful elites in a specific country."

President Rafael Correa said on Twitter that "we will

take the decision that we feel most suitable, with absolute sovereignty."

Analysts said welcoming Snowden would sharply escalate Correa's policy of tweaking the United States while maintaining strong economic ties that have maintained healthy growth rates and fueled the president's wide popularity, over 60 percent in recent polls. It would be a tempting but potentially dangerous play, they said, for a leader who appears to delight in slamming U.S. foreign policy but depends on Washington for nearly half Ecuador's foreign trade.

Correa has given WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange refuge from Swedish sexual assault charges in Ecuador's embassy in London for a year, garnering international headlines and few consequences. Welcoming Snowden, a man who has acknowledged leaking secret U.S. information, may be a different matter. Analysts said it could jeopardize tariff-free access to U.S. mar-

kets for Ecuadoran fruit, seafood and flowers. U.S. trade, which also includes oil, accounts for half of Ecuador's exports and about

the Quito-based financial analysis firm Analytica Securities. "The United States is an important market for us, and treating a big client

of the Ecuadorans who re-elected Correa in February with 57 percent of the vote see flouting the U.S. as a welcome expression of in-



Ecuador's President Rafael Correa, right, greets passersby from the balcony of the presidential palace during the weekly, The Change of the Guard, in Quito, Ecuador, Monday, June 24, 2013.

(AP Photo/Dolores Ochoa)

400,000 jobs in the nation of 14.6 million.

The U.S. Andean Trade Preference Act requires imminent congressional renewal and hosting Snowden "doesn't help Ecuador's efforts to extend it," said Ramiro Crespo, director of

this way isn't appropriate from a commercial point of view." At the same time, high oil prices, a growing mining industry and rising ties with China may give Correa a sense of protection from U.S. repercussions. And at home, many

dependence, particularly when it comes in the form of granting asylum.

"This person who's being pursued by the CIA, our policy is loving people like that, protecting them, perhaps giving them the rights that their own countries don't give them. I think this is a worthy effort by us," said office worker Juan Francisco Sambrano.

Patino, the foreign minister, described Snowden as "a man attempting to bring light and transparency to facts that affect everyone's fundamental liberties, whom we can now see being pursued by those who should be explaining themselves to the governments and citizens of the world about the allegations made by Mr. Snowden."

But others saw hypocrisy in a possible offer of asylum by a government that has aggressively pursued critics in the press for perceived slights and recently passed a media law that some call an assault on freedom of speech.

In 2011 Correa pursued civil charges against two reporters who reported that his brother had illegally obtained government contracts, a case that ended with a \$2 million judgment against them, though Correa later voided it. □

HidroAysen doable, chief says, rebuffing Bachelet

EVA VERGARA Associated Press

SANTIAGO, Chile (AP) — A controversial plan to power central Chile by damming Patagonian rivers is doable, the project's head said Monday, dismissing criticism from leading presidential candidate Michelle Bachelet that HidroAysen is not viable.

Chile is strapped for energy, but most Chileans oppose the proposal to tame two of the world's wildest rivers and build more than 500 miles (800 kilometers) of power lines linking hydroelectric plants to the grid that powers the nation's capital. Some mass marches against the project have turned violent.

"It's easy to say no to a project," HidroAysen Executive Vice President Daniel Fernandez told foreign correspondents. "But I'd like see the energy policies that candidates have planned for the years to come for Chile."

Fernandez added that the \$8 billion project is feasible as long as there's "nation-wide agreement" that the planned transmission line

presidency with high popularity ratings, is leading in polls ahead of the Nov. 17 presidential election. Her opposition to HidroAysen



Photo shows a view of the confluence of the Baker and Chacabuco rivers on the outskirts of Cochrane, Aysen region, in Chile's northern Patagonia.

(AP Photo/Jorge Uzon)

must go forward. The project has been approved by the Supreme Court and is now under review by a special Cabinet committee. Bachelet, a center-leftist who ended her 2006-10

could kill the project if she returns to office.

"It's not viable. It shouldn't go on," Bachelet said late Sunday during a televised debate with other candidates who are competing

to represent the center-left coalition in the election. With its energy-intensive mining industry demanding more power, Chile must triple its power capacity in just 15 years, despite having no domestic oil or natural gas, experts say. The dams together could generate 2.75 gigawatts, almost a third of central Chile's current needs, within 12 years.

Chile imports most of its fossil fuels and depends largely on hydropower for electricity. This creates a crisis when droughts drain reservoirs or far-away disputes affect fuel imports. HidroAysen supporters say the economic benefits of the project in southern Chile justify carving access roads through an area of Andean glaciers and deep green valleys and fjords and running transmission lines through national parks and private properties all the way to the capital, Santiago. □

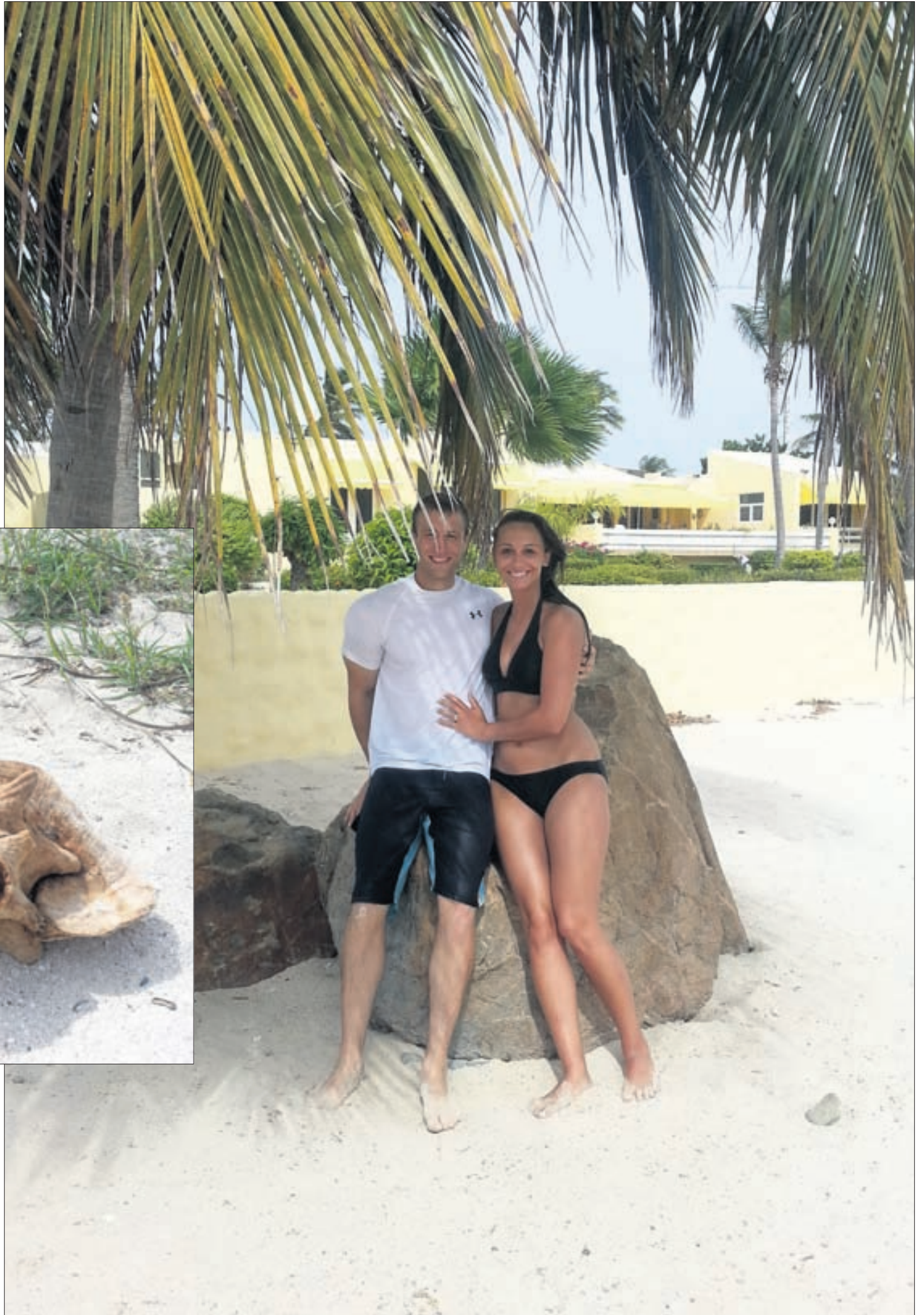


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conch shell on the shore by her now-fiance Cole. Cole's brother also got engaged on Aruba four years ago at the Pelican's Nest. Cole and Kara plan to wed in Aruba in June of 2014. Cole bought Kara's ring in Aruba at Bijoux jewelers, from Gary Asrani. The happy couple was quoted as saying "We Love Aruba!"





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See what guests are saying about The Blue Lobster Restaurant!

PALM BEACH - On what is becoming (again) 'THE STRIP' in the district of Noord in Aruba, there is only good news coming out one after the other. Excellent culinary facilities are now booming and many new restaurants and cafes/bars and entertaining facilities are now available, providing exceptional service and a great variety of cuisines,

pleasing all kinds of tastes, including the more sophisticated patrons. Many of these facilities have been awarded the Certificate of Excellence by TripAdvisor, confirming the high quality of their food and service. The Blue Lobster Restaurant is one of the best new places leading the renaissance in this area of the island. Some 15-to-20 years ago

this area was the place to be, and for sure it's in the memory of the loyal Aruba visitors-many good moments come to mind when having the opportunity to visit this area again. Some of the classic restaurants are still there, serving their hundreds of loyal clients, which have been coming there for a wonderful dinner, year after year, and the trend continues now with the new kids on the block! The Blue Lobster Restaurant has been there for only 16 months, and already 75% of the clientele are repeat visitors! This shows an increase of 25% on new clients. For sure you must come and see what the Palm Beach Strip is all about-a bit away from the High Rise Hotels, but guaranteed it will be worth the trip (10 minutes walk or a \$10.00 taxi ride). The Blue Lobster Restaurant is heading the specialty-cu-



linary experience by offering an extensive menu with over 25 dishes prepared with lobster, as well as fresh catch-of-the-day, first quality meat dishes, pasta, and other seafood dishes, a kids menu, and even vegetarian dishes are found at this little romantic and Caribbean restaurant. There are many options on the Palm Beach Strip, including pancakes, Dutch/American cuisine, Local creole dishes, BBQ, French

cuisine, Karaoke nights, cool beers, live entertainment, and much more, so come and enjoy the Palm Beach Strip and The Blue Lobster Restaurant-you will be pleasantly surprised. And the best is that prices in most of the cases do not surpass \$40 per-person (lobster included)! And see for yourself what actual clients are saying about The Blue Lobster Restaurant in these comment cards! □

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Comment Card	Excellent	Good	Average	Poor
Service	✓			
Food Presentation	✓			
Quality of the Appointments	✓			
Quality of the Menu/Menu	✓			
Atmosphere	✓			
Cleanliness	✓			
Staff Attentiveness	✓			
Drinks/Concessions	✓			
Comments				

By the way, but don't forget to check the menu, it's fantastic! I'll be back soon! Thank you!

Name: Luz Maria de Rio

Phone: 586-3843

Thank you

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Please fill in this card and participate in a raffle to win one week accommodation for 4 in Aruba. Some conditions apply.

Date: 6-13-13 Time: 5

Comment Card	Excellent	Good	Average	Poor
Service	✓			
Food Presentation	✓			
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Comments				

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Thank you

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Comment Card	Excellent	Good	Average	Poor
Service	✓			
Food Presentation	✓			
Quality of the Appointments	✓			
Quality of the Menu/Menu	✓			
Atmosphere	✓			
Cleanliness	✓			
Staff Attentiveness	✓			
Drinks/Concessions	✓			
Comments				

By the way, but don't forget to check the menu, it's fantastic! I'll be back soon! Thank you!

Name: Luz Maria de Rio

Phone: 586-3843

Thank you

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Comments				

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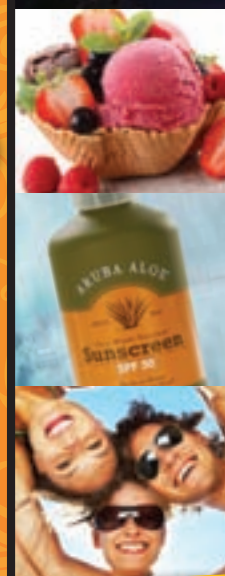
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At Caribbean Palm Village Resort:

Gwenn Correa recognized for Five Years of Service!

NOORD – The diligent and charming Gwenn Correa, a front desk supervisor at the quaint Caribbean Palm Village Resort was recently recognized by Interim General Manager Astrid Muller and her management team, for five years of excellent service. Gwenn, a mother of two, earned her professional diploma at the local vocational school specializing in handi-



capped care, but opted for hospitality when recruited by the Caribbean Palm Village Resort. She reports never regretting her choices, on the contrary, she found her calling working in the island's tourism sec-

tor and in now prepared to pursue further education in that field by enrolling at the University of Aruba in the Faculty of Hospitality & Tourism Management. On a personal note, and in order to keep up with the level of



activity at the resort Gwenn participates in kickboxing, Muay Thai, enjoys insanity workouts, Taekwondo, Yoga and keeping up with her equally active kids, Kyan, 8 and Keathan, 5.

As she received her well-deserved recognition, Gwenn shared she likes working at Caribbean Palm Village because of the family atmosphere it promotes among guests and

colleagues, and the intimate size of the resort. She also appreciates the ease of communication with her peers and clients and the teamwork it takes to run a successful operation. □

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Maria Sharapova of Russia plays a return to Kristina Mladenovic of France in their Women's first round singles match in Wimbledon, in London, Monday, June 24, 2013. (AP Photo/Anja Niedringhaus)

MOVING ON

LONDON (AP) — Maria Sharapova reached up and flicked an over-the-shoulder backhand volley for a winner to wrap up a close-as-can-be first set. About an hour later, she just as easily swatted away questions from reporters hungry for more juice in her feud with Serena Williams. "I've said everything that I wanted to say about the issue," the third-seeded Russian said Monday after a 7-6 (5), 6-3 victory over Kristina Mladenovic of France. "Wimbledon started. This is my work. This is my job. I'd really appreciate it if we move on."

Indeed, it was time for tennis after a week of buildup that included the news-making back-and-forth between Sharapova and Williams, stemming from comments Williams made in a Rolling Stone magazine interview.

She insisted she had no problem setting aside the dust-up with Williams to focus on tennis.

"I treat this as my job because it is my job, because this is what I work for," she said. "When I go out on the court, this is where all the work goes in. Why would I be thinking about anything else?" □

ONE AND DONE



Nadal stunned at Wimbledon in 1st round by Darcis

Rafael Nadal of Spain reacts as he loses a point to Steve Darcis of Belgium during their Men's first round singles match at the All England Lawn Tennis Championships in Wimbledon, London, Monday, June 24, 2013.

(AP Photo/Kirsty Wigglesworth)
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At half time in Confed Cup, Spain primed for title

ROB HARRIS
AP Sports Writer

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — The first half of the Confederations Cup has confounded most expectations.

Brazil's players have emerged from a slump and rediscovered their spark, a year before the World Cup.

And, rather than the expected Samba-inspired carnival atmosphere in this football-crazy country, the streets around stadiums have been in security lockdown. A population without a recent appetite for mass demonstrations has turned out in its hundreds of thousands to express its rage against the government. Capitalizing on the global media spotlight, Brazilians have protested against corruption and rising costs in Brazil at a time when billions of dollars are being pumped into 2014 World Cup projects.

Preparations for FIFA's showpiece tournament were thought to be well behind schedule, but half of the 12 venues being used at next year's World Cup have so far hosted 12 Confederations Cup games with none of the significant organizational or structural problems anticipated.

It helps for the national mood that Brazil's footballers are also defying fears they wouldn't be ready to perform in the global spotlight.

Luiz Felipe Scolari, re-hired this year in a bid to replicate his 2002 World Cup triumph with Brazil, faced a restive fan base as the five-time world champions stuttered through six games with just one win and plummeted to 22 in FIFA's rankings.

It was a slump that started with a loss to England in February and, now it seems, ended with a draw on home soil to the same opponents.

Since then, Brazil has won four consecutive games — including all three Confederations Cup fixtures — to march into the semifinals as Group A winners and provide a counterpoint to

the strife on the streets.

And that's largely due to the goal-scoring prowess of Neymar.

His future now settled — a 57 million euros (\$75 million) move from Santos to Barcelona was sealed before the tournament — Neymar is finally flourishing as the focal point of Brazil's attack. Slick goal-scoring touches are showing he has the talent to match the bravado and hype. With three goals in the Group

A games against Italy, Japan and Mexico, it seems a long time since Neymar was jeered by his own fans after a poor performance in Brazil's 2-2 draw with Chile in April.

Now the 21-year-old Neymar is comfortably settling into the role of national icon, with the swagger and striking that can help deliver Brazil's sixth World Cup next year, while winning over the public by expressing solidarity with the pro-

testers. Standing in the way of Brazil reaching Sunday's final at the Maracana Stadium is Uruguay. The semi-final on Wednesday pits Brazil's forward line of Fred-Neymar-Hulk against the trio of Edinson Cavani-Luis Suarez-Diego Forlan.

Suarez was the only player to manage to break through Spain's defense in Group B as Uruguay finished runners-ups to the world and European champions.

It's slightly deceptive that Spain is currently the top-scoring team at the Confederations Cup, having put 10 of its 15 goals past a hapless Tahiti side.

But playing the minnows from the Pacific Ocean gave coach Vicente del Bosque a chance to grant his squad playing time, giving out-of-favor striker Fernando Torres a chance to turn out for Spain in a competitive match for the first time in eight months. □



Spain's Fernando Torres, right, scores his side's 2nd goal during the soccer Confederations Cup group B match between Nigeria and Spain at the Castelao stadium in Fortaleza, Brazil, Sunday, June 23, 2013. (AP Photo/Fernando Llano)

In Under-20 WCup, Spain beats Ghana 1-0

MICHAEL CASEY
AP Sports Writer

ISTANBUL (AP) — Spain became the first team to advance to the knockout stages of the Under-20 World Cup, earning a lackluster but welcome 1-0 victory over Ghana on Monday.

The United States boosted its chances of reaching the final 16 with a hard-fought 1-1 draw with France after a late strike by Daniel Cuevas. Spain, the tournament favorite, was a shadow of the team that routed the Americans 4-1. It rarely threatened and often ap-

peared unsettled by Ghana's pressing style.

The only real chance for Spain came in the 13th minute when Denis Suarez took a long ball and sent a pass to an unmarked Jese who tapped it in.

Ghana had the better chances in the second period but struggled to finish. A header from Frank Achepong went wide in the 55th and then Yiadome Boakye spun around and fired his shot just over the goal three minutes later.

Ghana's Ebenezer Assifuah was taken down in the area in injury time by

defender Israel Puerto but no penalty was called.

"We played a strong physical team and we had a lot of chances," Spain coach Julen Lopetegui said. "We scored one goal and dominated the second half. We are very happy to be in the second round."

Ghana's Sellas Tetteh praised his players' "brave" effort and blamed the poor finish on his side's inexperience.

It now must beat the United States Thursday in its final group match for any chance of advancing.

"You never call it over until

it's over," Tetteh said. "That is the game of football. There is nothing that is impossible. We will give it our final shot."

In the earlier match, France looked on pace to win and advance after Auxerre striker Yaya Sanogo scored his second goal of the tournament from a penalty kick in the 48th minute. It came after Dimitri Foulquier was sideswiped by America's Javan Torre in the area.

The United States had few chances and failed to convert — the worst when Luis Gil's penalty was easily saved in the 65th. □



Boston Celtics head coach Doc Rivers reacts to a call during the first half of an NBA basketball game against the Charlotte Bobcats in Charlotte, N.C. Rivers will be the next coach of the Los Angeles Clippers. (AP Photo/Chuck Burton)

Rivers heads to Clippers in a stripped-down deal

BENJAMIN HOFFMAN
© 2013 New York Times

The Los Angeles Clippers are poised to finally lure coach Doc Rivers from the Boston Celtics, reaching agreement on an on-again, off-again deal that at various points was declared dead and against league rules.

The deal, which was confirmed by a person close to Rivers, would send the coach to Los Angeles in exchange for an unprotected 2015 first-round draft pick.

Believed to be the key to retaining Chris Paul, the Clippers' All-Star point guard, who will be an unrestricted free agent July 1, Rivers has reportedly agreed to a three-year, \$21 million contract with the Clippers, according to multiple news media reports. The deal matches the basic terms remaining on Rivers' contract with the Celtics. The problems concerning the exchange focused on a second proposed trade that would involve multiple players including Celtics star Kevin Garnett and Clippers center DeAndre Jordan. With the deals seemingly contingent on each other, they would violate the league's collective bargaining agreement, which bans transactions involving players and coaches.

Commissioner David Stern, who remains in charge of the league until Feb. 1, 2014, made it clear that he would veto the trade if he thought the two parts

were connected. He also mocked the notion that the teams could do both trades and then claim they were not related.

"I have a bridge that I would very much enjoy selling to you," Stern told ESPN Radio last week when asked if the two trades could be completed independently of each other.

The deal will still require league approval, but as the Garnett trade has not been completed, it is unclear how the league could say the Rivers deal is against the rules.

Rivers, who just completed his ninth season as the coach of the Celtics after five with the Orlando Magic, has a career record of 587-473. He was named the Coach of the Year for the 1999-2000 season and won a title with the Celtics in 2008.

Many have speculated that Rivers was not interested in being part of a coming rebuilding effort in Boston.

Although the Clippers owner Donald Sterling is not known for largess, the generous contract for Rivers will be well worth it if it helps the team retain Paul, who pairs with Blake Griffin in what has been nicknamed Lob City. The team would become especially dangerous should it work out a deal for Paul Pierce, who could become a free agent June 30, when the Celtics must decide whether to exercise a \$15 million option or give him a \$5 million buyout. □

Heat celebrate win with parade

TIM REYNOLDS
AP Basketball Writer

MIAMI (AP) — Chris Bosh held the NBA championship trophy, LeBron James stood atop a double-decker bus with a cigar in his mouth, and Chris Andersen flapped his arms in a nod to his "Birdman" moniker.

The NBA champion Miami Heat were in quite a mood to party on Monday.

Players, families, staff members and friends crammed buses, flatbed trucks and cars for the parade honoring the latest Heat championship, with the caravan snaking its way through downtown Miami before a huge crowd of fans. A

crowd of up to 400,000 was expected on a hot, steamy morning where the heat index reached the mid-90s by 11 a.m.

Several players held super-soaker squirt guns and sprayed water on fans below, confetti blew through the air and dotted the streets, and bands blared as the team rolled past with horns honking. Heat managing general partner Micky Arison and team president Pat Riley stood in the front of one bus, Heat coach Erik Spoelstra — his championship cap turned backward — waved and clapped at fans, and Dwyane Wade pointed at people along the route.

A rally inside the team's home arena was scheduled for later Monday afternoon.

One vehicle carried a number of uniformed military personnel. The Heat have honored military members before every home game in Miami for the past several seasons.

Police reported no major problems early on, and bomb- and drug-sniffing dogs were spotted working their way through the crowd. City officials banned fans from carrying backpacks, though several were spotted along the route and some people were searched randomly for security reasons. □



Miami Heat's Chris Bosh, right, holds the NBA championship trophy during the celebration parade in Miami, Monday, June 24, 2013. Miami became the sixth franchise in NBA basketball history to win consecutive championships, after topping the San Antonio Spurs in this year's finals for the third title overall for the Heat franchise. (AP Photo/Javier Galeano)

Nadal stunned at Wimbledon in 1st round by Darcis

HOWARD FENDRICH
AP Tennis Writer

LONDON (AP) — Just like that, in a span of 15 days, Rafael Nadal went from French Open champion for a record eighth time to first-round Grand Slam loser for the only time in his career.

gone 43-2 and reached the finals at all nine tournaments he entered, winning seven.

Most recently, in Paris, he collected his 12th Grand Slam trophy, tied for third-most in history, while extending his winning streak to 22 matches.

"Two weeks ago, I was in a fantastic situation, winning a fantastic tournament," Nadal said. "Two weeks later, I lost here in the first round. That's the positive and the negative thing about this sport."

His early defeat rendered moot all the debate in

the preceding days about whether Nadal's No. 5 seeding was appropriate or whether Wimbledon officials should have bumped him higher because of past success at the grass-court tournament.

In five appearances at Wimbledon from 2006-11 (he missed the 2009 edition because of knee trouble), Nadal reached the final five times. He won the 2008 and 2010 championships, and was the runner-up to Roger Federer in 2006-07, then to Novak Djokovic in 2011.

Because of Nadal's low-for-him seeding this time — his ranking slid during his time off — he wound up in the same half of the draw as seven-time champion Federer and second-seeded Andy Murray.

A possible Nadal-Federer quarterfinal loomed, as did a potential Nadal-Murray semifinal.

So much for that.

"Pretty irrelevant right now," said Murray, who won in three sets Monday, as did Federer. "It's obviously surprising. But, you know, the consistency that Rafa, Roger, Novak have shown in the Slams over the

last five, six years, it's going to be almost impossible to keep that up forever."

Two days before Wimbledon started, Nadal spoke about having more trouble on grass than other surfaces lately because its low skids force him to bend his knees so much to reach shots. Nadal decided to skip a grass-court tuneup tournament between the French Open and Wimbledon, opting to rest instead, and arrived in England on Tuesday to begin preparing in earnest.

On Monday, he said, "I didn't move the way I need to if I'm going to win on this surface."

Nadal avoids discussing health issues in the immediate aftermath of a defeat — he didn't reveal the left knee injury last year until weeks after the Rosol match — and Monday was no different. Still, anyone who watched Nadal play Darcis could tell something wasn't right.

Nadal deflected three questions in English about his left knee, saying it's "not the day to talk about these kind of things" and that it would sound like "an excuse." □



Steve Darcis of Belgium reacts as he defeats Rafael Nadal of Spain in their Men's first round singles match at the All England Lawn Tennis Championships in Wimbledon, London, Monday, June 24, 2013.

(AP Photo/Kirsty Wigglesworth)

Limping occasionally and slower than usual, but unwilling afterward to blame an old left knee injury, the two-time Wimbledon winner exited 7-6 (4), 7-6 (8), 6-4 Monday against 135th-ranked Steve Darcis of Belgium — one of the most stunning results ever at the All England Club.

"Nobody remembers the losses. People remember the victories," Nadal said, shaking his head as he leaned back in a black leather chair. "And I don't want to remember that loss."

Everyone else definitely will.

It certainly belongs in the same category as his loss a year ago at Wimbledon, in the second round to Lukas Rosol, a player ranked 100th at the time. After that setback, Nadal missed about seven months because of his bad left knee. Since returning, he had

Stephens and McHale advance at Wimbledon



Sloane Stephens of the United States returns the ball to Jamie Hampton of the United States during their Women's first round singles match at the All England Lawn Tennis Championships in Wimbledon, London, Monday, June 24, 2013.

(AP Photo/Alastair Grant)

SANDRA HARWITT
Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Sloane Stephens wasn't about to let the tennis match get in the way of her plans for the evening.

Stephens took only 62 minutes to brush aside fellow American Jamie Hampton 6-3, 6-3 in the opening round at Wimbledon on Monday, then renewed one of her favorite traditions — a trip to a nearby Indian restaurant for dinner.

"We need to speed this up," Stephens said in her post-match interview. "Normally I get the chicken tikka masala, but the last two nights I've got the chicken korma."

Stephens was a bright spot on an otherwise disappointing day for the American women. Seven

of them lost their first-round matches. The only two to advance — Stephens and Christina McHale — were pitted against other Americans, meaning someone from the U.S. had to advance.

In the win over Hampton, Stephens got 73 percent of her first serves in and was effective with her powerful groundstrokes, especially from the forehand side.

"I just stayed really aggressive the whole time," said Stephens, who played no grass tuneup tournaments before Wimbledon. "I think that worked well for me."

The only time Hampton had a lead in the match was when she broke Stephens' serve in the fourth game of the second set to go ahead 3-1. She didn't win another game. □

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At Tour de France, room for Froome, none for dope

JAMEY KEATEN
Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — Chris Froome has a chance to prove over the next three weeks what some suspected in 2012 — that he could have won last year's Tour de France if he hadn't had to give way for his teammate, Bradley Wiggins.

Now Wiggins is out injured and that makes the Kenyan-born Briton the favorite to triumph on a particularly mountainous route this year, one that should suit his climbing skills.

The 100th edition of the Tour begins Saturday in Corsica — France's "Island of Beauty" in the Mediterranean — the first time cycling's greatest race has set wheel to road in the land of Napoleon's birthplace.

Another key plotline: the shadow of Lance Armstrong. This the first Tour since he was stripped of his record seven victories for doping, which he finally admitted after years of denials following a detailed report from the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency. While Armstrong will have no involvement in this year's race, fans and media will have a close eye on performance-enhancing drug use in the peloton.

That 198-rider peloton, or pack, is to cover 3,479 kilometers (2,162 miles) over three weeks — 21 stages and two rest days — before an unusual nighttime finish July 21 on the Champs-Élysées in Paris.

The race spends three days on Corsica's winding, hilly roads then begins a counterclockwise run through mainland France along the Mediterranean, into the Pyrenees mountains, then up to Brittany and the fabled Mont-Saint-Michel

island citadel before a slashing jaunt southeastward toward the Alps before entering the capital. Long before they knew Wiggins would be out, race organizers gave relatively short shrift to the time trial — a race-against the clock in which last year's champ excels.

racers he started — and his second-place finish behind his British compatriot last year has put him on the top rung of Tour favorites. Last year, Froome was a dutiful, if not always respectful, sidekick to Wiggins. Froome injected drama into the race — and fanned talk of rivalry —

the Tour of Romandie and the Criterium du Dauphine this year. His only loss this season? Second place in the Tirreno-Adriatico. Two-time Tour winner Alberto Contador is seen as Froome's most likely challenger. The Spaniard's career hit a speed bump in 2010 when he tested posi-

white jersey awarded to the Tour's best young rider last year.

The question now is whether 2011 Tour champion Evans, now 36, will be in contention enough for Van Garderen to stay in a support role: If not, he could be cut loose.

Froome, Contador and



Rabobank team rider Bauke Mollema from the Netherlands celebrates on the podium wearing the overall leader red jersey after the end of the 9th stage of the Spanish Vuelta cycling race over 183 kilometers (113.7 miles) with the start in Villacastin and finish in Sierra de Bejar, Spain. The new sponsor of the Tour de France cycling team now renamed Belkin is vowing "zero tolerance" for doping. The now newly named Belkin Pro Cycling Team used to be called Rabobank, its former sponsor. But the Dutch lender ended 17 years of cycling sponsorship last October, pulling 15 million euros (\$20 million) per year from the team. The bank said it was no longer convinced that the doping-tainted sport can become "clean and honest."

(AP Photo/Arturo Rodriguez)

There's no opening-day time-trial. The team time-trial returns to the Tour in Stage 4. Two individual time-trials in Stage 11 (33 km, 20.5 miles) and Stage 17 (32 km; 19.8 miles) will count, but the latter one comes before three days in the Alps, which may have more impact on the race outcome.

Froome, the 28-year-old Team Sky leader, has ridden in two other Tours. His dazzling start to the season — winning four of the five

after he repeatedly outperformed Wiggins in the mountains. At one point, he even gestured at his Team Sky leader to catch up.

At the time, Wiggins acknowledged Froome had "talent," but also didn't know what it was like to feel the pressure of being the favorite.

Now is Froome's chance, and so far he has seemed to manage the pressure: He won the Tour of Oman, the Criterium International,

tive for the banned fat-burning, muscle-building drug clenbuterol at the Tour — landing him a ban that forced him to sit out last year's race. He hasn't yet revived the fear and admiration that his sharp uphill accelerations once inspired.

American Tejay Van Garderen, who was a support rider for BMC leader Cadel Evans of Australia last year, will be among the rising stars to watch. The 24-year-old took home the

Van Garderen are potential contenders for the overall, general classification — or GC — victory because they fare well at both mountain-climbing and time trials, the two pillars of today's stage-race competitions. Other would-be contenders include Evans, Jurgen Van Den Broeck of Belgium, a two-time fourth place finisher, Ryder Hesjedal of Canada — who crashed out last year — and Joaquim Rodriguez of Spain. □

REPORT:

Latest bird flu strain 'kills over a third'

LONDON (AP)—More than a third of patients infected with a new strain of bird flu died after being admitted to the hospital earlier this year, Chinese researchers report in a new study. Since the new H7N9 bird flu first broke out in China in late March, the strain has sickened more than 130 people and killed 37. The World Health Organization has previously described H7N9 as "one of the most lethal influenza viruses" it has ever seen and said it appeared to spread faster than the last bird flu strain, H5N1, that threatened to unleash a pandemic.

After making some adjustments for missing data, the Chinese scientists estimated the overall death rate to be 36 percent. The outbreak was stopped after China closed many of its live animal markets — scientists had assumed the virus was infecting people through exposure to live birds.

That makes the new strain less deadly than H5N1, which kills about 70 percent of the people it infects. Still, H7N9 is more lethal than the swine flu that caused a 2009 global epidemic. That had a death rate of less than one percent.

The results were released in two papers on the H7N9 strain, published online Monday in the journal *Lancet*.

"The good news is that numbers of (H7N9) cases have stalled," Cecile Viboud and Lone Simonsen of the U.S. National Institutes of Health wrote in a commentary accompanying the article.

However, they warned that the threat of the virus still "persists" and predicted that the strain might return in the winter, when flu viruses are typically most active.

That assessment echoes the WHO, which earlier this month also warned of the virus adapting. □

Personal Health:

Steps for getting more, and better, sleep

JANE E. BRODY
© 2013 New York Times

I regret that for most of my adult life, I treated sleep as more a luxury than a necessity. There was always something more to do before I crawled under the covers and turned out the light. I realize belatedly that I might have been more productive — and a lot nicer to live with — if I had given sleep its proper due. By failing to acknowledge chronic sleep deprivation, I dozed during countless cultural events, and on two occasions I fell asleep while driving, barely escaping disaster. I have since reordered my priorities and learned to avoid distractions and activities that can keep me from getting the sleep my body and mind really need.

About 70 million Americans sleep poorly or not nearly long enough to achieve the full physical, emotional and cognitive benefits sleep can bestow. There are myriad reasons, ranging from self-inflicted disruptions to those that are seemingly unavoidable. But there are also potential solutions to most of the factors that can interfere with sleep. For the sake of your health and longevity, I urge you to give them a try.

How much sleep do you need? Sleep requirements depend on age. Newborns sleep 16 to 18 hours a day, preschoolers need 11 to 12 hours, and elementary school children need 10 hours. Adolescents should get nine to 10 hours, although most teenagers sleep only about seven hours.

Given the opportunity to sleep as long as they want, most adults average about eight hours a night. There are individual differences, of course, but the usual range is between seven and nine hours. Getting less than the amount of sleep you need during the school or workweek builds up a sleep debt that cannot be fully erased by "sleeping in" on the weekend. This pattern can also

mess up your biological clock, making it hard to get up on Monday morning.

It was long ago shown that a midafternoon nap of about 20 minutes can improve alertness and productivity and reduce mistakes among sleep-deprived workers, yet few employers offer a mid-day lie-down or provide a place for one.

Age also affects the quality of sleep and the amount of time spent in the various stages of sleep. These

need to urinate.

Poor sleep among the elderly may in part account for problems with memory and concentration, depressed mood and daytime sleepiness. I often see gray heads nodding off at events, even during matinees.

If noise or light disturbs your sleep, you can counter them with a white-noise machine and light-blocking shades. Keep the room cool and avoid weighty covers. Two years ago, I summarized factors that

in the day can disturb the sleep of anyone who has not developed a tolerance to caffeine by drinking too much of it. Caffeine's stimulating effects can last for six to eight hours and make it hard to fall asleep or cause middle-of-the-night wakefulness.

Alcohol may help you fall asleep, but when its effects wear off hours later, you may wake up and be unable to get back to sleep. (I and others I know find wine especially problematic and avoid drinking it with dinner.)

STRESS: Anxiety, excessive stress and difficulty shutting out worries trigger the release of body chemicals that act as stimulants. Try a relaxing bedtime ritual like a hot bath, meditation or progressive muscle relaxation, starting at the toes and working up to your head. Or, odd though it may seem, try reading something dull.

If things you must remember or do the next day keep popping into your head, put a pad and pen next to the bed, write them down and then do your best to forget about them until morning.

OTHER TIPS: Years ago I mentioned that leg cramps were waking me up well before the alarm, and readers responded with myriad solutions, from bedtime stretches to magnesium supplements. What has worked best: drinking about eight ounces of tonic water (diet version) every day. Tonic water contains modest amounts of quinine, which used to be sold over-the-counter to reduce leg cramps.

Another innocuous sleep aid that has proved miraculous for me is a nightly supplement of melatonin, which the body naturally produces after dark. The pineal gland in the brain is inactive during the day, but after sundown it starts spewing melatonin into the bloodstream. With a supplement on board, I fall asleep quickly, and if I awaken during the night, I return to sleep easily. □



In general, adults need at least seven hours of sleep, and being mindful of diet and exercise during the hours leading up to bedtime can help ensure a restful night.

(Christopher Silas Neal/The New York Times)

include REM, or rapid-eye-movement sleep (often called dream sleep), and three types of non-REM sleep: the light sleep of Stage 1, followed by the more relaxed sleep of Stage 2 and the most restorative deep sleep of Stage 3.

Young children spend most of the night in deep sleep, which is why they can often sleep through loud noise, bright light and being carried from car to bed.

But with age, the time spent in deep sleep diminishes and any number of disturbances can cause awakenings. For women going through menopause, for example, sleep is often interrupted by hot flashes. Even if there are no external disturbances, elderly people may be awakened many times during the night by the discomforts of illness or pain, the side effects of medication or the

commonly interfere with a good night's sleep, but a quick review, followed by some valuable new tips that have helped me, may help you too.

EXERCISE: Physical activity leaves you tired, but if you do your workout within two or three hours of bedtime, you may be too revved up to fall asleep easily.

MEDICATION: Many drugs, both prescription and over-the-counter, contain stimulating chemicals like pseudoephedrine and caffeine, commonly found in decongestants and painkillers. Beta-blockers, used to treat certain heart conditions and high blood pressure, may be disruptive as well. Ask your doctor if you can use an alternative drug.

FOOD AND DRINK: Eating a big meal close to bedtime can be a problem, especially if you are prone to indigestion. Drinking a caffeinated beverage late

Garr Column: Microsoft learns a lesson in a flap over used games

Brian Gaar

© 2013 Cox Newspapers

AUSTIN, Texas -- Microsoft stepped into a hornets' nest recently when it proposed limiting players' ability to resell or lend games on its new system.

Companies that create games for the upcoming Xbox One system, the company said, would be able to prevent consumers from reselling games by ensuring that the resold games no longer functioned on the console. What's more, the device would require an Internet connection at all times -- leading to questions about the long-term viability of games, if Microsoft ever shut down its servers.

The news prompted an outcry from gamers at the recent E3 industry trade show.

Archival Sony jabbed Microsoft when a company executive highlighted the features of its own forthcoming PlayStation 4.

"In addition to creating an amazing library of new titles on PlayStation 4, we're equally focused on delivering what gamers want most, without imposing restrictions or devaluing their PS4 purchases," Jack Tretton, president and CEO of Sony Computer Entertainment America, said at E3. "For instance, PlayStation 4 won't impose any new restrictions on the use of pre-owned games."

That got a huge round of applause from the E3 crowd.

He continued: "When a gamer buys a PS4 disc, they have the rights to use that copy of the game -- they can trade in the game at retail, sell it to another person, lend it to a friend, or keep it forever."

Nintendo, the other major console maker, also knocked the idea.

Shigeru Miyamoto, the legendary creator of games like the "Legend of Zelda" for Nintendo, which makes the Wii U, said in an interview, "We would never create our system that

way."

The change highlighted an old question for gamers: When you purchase a video game, what do you actually own?

The new Xbox "challenges a lot of long-held norms like the lending of game discs and the ability to play a games console whenever you want," wrote Luke Plunkett on game site Kotaku.

And the response "has been predictably damning, the Xbox One being labelled everything from anti-consumer to dead on arrival across gaming forums and Twitter," he wrote.

David Kaelin, who owns the Austin-based retro gaming Game Over Videogames chain, said Microsoft is facing "a major revolt from fans and gamers" worldwide.

"I was at E3 ... and that was literally ALL people could talk about, blog about, write about, etc.," he said by email. "Microsoft's new console will render used games practically worthless or charge people full retail price to re-activate them once deactivated by the initial purchaser."

Industry experts say that kind of backlash could hurt Microsoft.

"They have gotten a ton of flack about it," said Michael Pachter, a research analyst with Wedbush Morgan Securities. "They don't intend to limit resales, but they put a lot of restrictions on loaning games to friends and on renting games, and they have to clarify their policy."

As it turns out, those voices were heard.

After weeks of fan outcry, Microsoft late last week reversed its position.

"You told us how much you loved the flexibility you have today with games delivered on disc," wrote Don Matrick, president of Microsoft's interactive entertainment business. "The ability to lend, share, and resell these games at your discretion is of incredible importance to you. □"

Voice-activated technology is called safety risk for drivers, AAA reports

MATT RICHTEL

BILL VLASIC

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As concerns have intensified about driver distraction from electronic gadgets, automakers have increasingly introduced voice-activated systems that allow drivers to keep their hands on the wheel and eyes on the road. But a new study says that the most advanced of these systems actually create a different, and worse, safety risk, by taking a driver's mind, if not eyes, off the road.

most exhaustive look to date at the new in-car technology and sets up a potential clash between safety advocates and the auto industry, given that automakers increasingly see profit potential in the new systems.

In some high-end luxury cars, like the BMW 7-series sedan, drivers can dictate emails or text messages. And some mainstream models are equipped with options that can translate voice messages into text. The Chevrolet Sonic com-

Washington, adding that carmakers are trying to keep consumers connected without them having to use their hand-held phones while driving.

"It is a connected society, and people want to be connected in their car just as they are in their home or wherever they may be," she said. In April, the federal government recommended that automakers voluntarily limit the technology in their cars to keep drivers focused. The federal agency that made the recommen-



Joel Cooper, left, of Precision Driving Research, fits Russ Martin, of AAA, with a cap that records electrical impulses from the brain while driving, before a test drive in Landover, Md. A study released by AAA compared the impact of different activities on drivers, including listening to a book on tape or the radio, and talking on a hand-held phone or hands-free phone.

(Daniel Rosenbaum/The New York Times)

These systems let drivers use voice commands to dictate a text, send an email and even update a Facebook page. Automakers say the systems not only address safety concerns, but also cater to consumers who increasingly want to stay connected on the Internet while driving.

"What we really have on our hands is a looming public safety crisis with the proliferation of these vehicles," said Yolanda Cade, a spokeswoman for AAA, whose Foundation for Highway Safety released the study recently. She characterized the rush to equip cars with Internet-enabled systems as "an arms race." The study is among the

pact car, for example, has a system that allows drivers to compose texts verbally on an iPhone connected in the vehicle.

More than half of all new cars will integrate some type of voice recognition by 2019, according to the electronics consulting firm IMS Research. The auto companies argue these systems are safer because they are hands-free.

"We are concerned about any study that suggests that hand-held phones are comparably risky to the hands-free systems we are putting in our vehicles," said Gloria Bergquist, the vice president for public affairs at the Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers in

dation, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, said it would review the latest research.

What makes the use of these speech-to-text systems so risky is that they create a significant cognitive distraction, the researchers found. The brain is so taxed interacting with the system that, even with hands on the wheel and eyes on the road, the driver's reaction time and ability to process what's happening on the road are impaired.

The research was led by David Strayer, a neuroscientist at the University of Utah who for two decades has applied the principles of attention science to driver behavior. □

China slump, higher bond yields weigh on markets

JOSHUA FREED
AP Business Writer

More signs of distress in China's economy and rising bond yields led to a broad sell-off in stocks Monday,

ter is Friday.

Things were rough for stock investors in the morning. An overnight plunge in China caused by a spike in lending rates led to declines in

fell as much as 248 points in the first hour of trading. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note spiked to its highest in almost two years as the sell-off brought down

drop was 1.8 percent for bank and financial stocks. Bank of America fell the most among major bank stocks, giving up 39 cents, or 3.1 percent, to \$12.30.

Getting reliable information out of China is difficult, so it takes investors longer to decide how to react to developments there, said Gary Thayer, chief macro strategist for Wells Fargo Advisors.

The turbulence is also another sign of how vulnerable financial markets remain to any comments from the Fed about its \$85 billion in monthly bond purchases, which have kept interest rates at historic lows and helped drive the stock market's rally the last four years. On Wednesday and Thursday, the S&P plunged 3.9 percent after the central bank said its bond-buying program could wrap up by the middle of next year as long as economic conditions continue to improve. Stocks edged up Friday, but still had their worst week in two months.

"I think investors are overreacting to the prospects of a change in Fed policy," Thayer said. He noted that unemployment is down, inflation is low. "These are good economic conditions."

Gold fell \$14.90, or 1.2 percent, to \$1,277.10. Other metals were down, too. Crude oil rose \$1.49, or 1.6 percent, to \$95.18 per barrel.

rel.

Pullbacks that occur during bull markets tend to be "nasty and brutish" — but short, said John Manley, chief equity strategist at Wells Fargo Funds Management. He said it's common to get declines of 3 percent to 7 percent "as the market restores a reverence to risk to the investing public."

The last time the U.S. stock market had a full-blown correction — defined as a drop of at least 10 percent from a peak — was July 22-Oct. 3, 2011, when the S&P 500 fell 18.3 percent. That fall was caused by concern that a fight between U.S. lawmakers over extending the debt ceiling would push the U.S. into default. Since starting its bull run in March 2009, the S&P 500 has had six pullbacks of between 5 and 9 percent and two corrections. So far, the market has come back stronger from each setback. The S&P is still up 133 percent during this four-year bull market.

"Pullbacks are a natural occurrence in markets," said Janet Engels, senior vice president and director of the private client research group at RBC Wealth Management. "We likely have further to go."

The yield on the 10-year note rose slightly to 2.55 percent. Earlier in the day it was at 2.67, its highest level in almost two years. □



Trader Eric Schumacher works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange, Monday, June 24, 2013. Traders in the U.S. dumped stocks, bonds and commodities, prompted by signs of distress in China's economy and worries about the end of the Federal Reserve bank's easy money policies. (AP Photo/Richard Drew)

leaving the market down 5.7 percent from its all-time high last month.

It's the first pullback of 5 percent or more since November.

U.S. trading started with a slump Monday. The market recovered much of its loss, then fell back toward steeper losses again. By the close of trading the big stock indexes were clinging to modest gains for the second quarter. The last day of trading for the quarter

Europe. China's Shanghai Composite Index fell 5 percent, its biggest decline in four years. The drop was prompted by a government crackdown on off-balance sheet lending, which made investors worry about China's economic growth. Then France's benchmark stock index fell 1.7 percent, Germany's 1.2 percent.

U.S. traders took one look at that and sold. The Dow Jones industrial average

prices of U.S. government debt. Gold and other metals also fell.

Stocks got closer to breakeven around midday before falling again in the last hour. The Dow finished down 139.84 points, or 0.9 percent, at 14,659.56. The S&P 500 index fell 19.34 points, or 1.2 percent, to 1,573.09. The Nasdaq dropped 36.49 points, or 1.1 percent, to 3,320.76.

All 10 industry groups in the S&P 500 fell. The biggest

Vodafone to buy Kabel Deutschland for \$10.1 billion

MARK SCOTT
© 2013 New York Times

LONDON — Dealmakers in Europe have waited months for the mergers and acquisitions market to show signs of recovery.

On Monday, they got their wish.

The British telecommunications giant Vodafone announced that it was buying Kabel Deutschland, Germany's largest cable operator, for 7.7 billion euros, or \$10.1 billion. The deal, one of the largest in Europe this year, follows almost six months of jockeying to ac-

quire Kabel Deutschland.

Analysts, however, were quick to play down a wider rebound in deals across Europe.

Europe's sluggish economy continues to put off potential acquisitions, particularly in struggling sectors like real estate and retail. And local companies continue to fret that multibillion-euro deals will anger shareholders, who remain skeptical about the value of such costly moves.

By announcing its \$10.1 billion deal for Kabel Deutschland, Vodafone has joined

a continuing overhaul of Europe's telecommunications and cable industry in which local and international rivals compete to pocket assets across the Continent.

"This is a unique deal in Europe's most solid economy," Vittorio Colao, chief executive of Vodafone, told reporters Monday, in reference to the acquisition. "We see ourselves as a data company in every home and in every office." Vodafone's offer for Kabel Deutschland represents the second-largest cable deal

in Europe this year, after the purchase of Virgin Media of Britain by Liberty Global for \$16 billion.

"Investors may feel that the offer leaves Vodafone with significant value on the table and may choose to ask for a higher price," Deutsche Bank analysts said in a research note on Monday. "We would also expect a Liberty Global counter."

The deal for Kabel Deutschland is the latest of several deals in Europe's cable and telecoms sector. On Monday, the Spanish com-

pany Telefónica agreed to sell its Irish unit to Hutchison Whampoa of Hong Kong for around \$1 billion. In January, the Asian company also bought Orange Austria, another European cellphone operator, for roughly \$1.7 billion.

Other international players also have been circling European assets. In addition to Liberty Global's recent deals, the Mexican billionaire Carlos Slim Helú also has been picking up stakes in European cellphone companies, including KPN of the Netherlands. □

Warner Bros. announces new leadership team; Jeff Robinov out

MICHAEL CIEPLY

© 2013 New York Times

LOS ANGELES - Warner Bros. on Monday announced a new leadership team at the studio, while sending employees an email that said Jeff Robinov, who has been president of the motion picture group, "will no longer serve" in that position.

The company's public announcement said responsibility for the movie group will be divided among Sue Kroll, who will be president of worldwide marketing and international distribution; Greg Silverman, who will be president of creative development and Worldwide Production; and Toby Emmerich, who will continue as president and chief operating officer of New Line Cinema, while adding responsibility for the Warner theater operations.

The new lineup will report directly to Kevin Tsujihara, who is chief executive of the studio, which also includes an extensive television and home entertainment operation.

The company's internal email stopped short of saying that Robinov would leave the company; his departure has been widely expected since Tsujihara won the chief executive's post after an internal competition. But associates of Robinov said last week that he might surface at another Hollywood studio, if he managed to exit contractual arrangements that tie him to Warner.

The shake-up follows the exit of Bruce Rosenblum as the president of Warner's television group, and leaves Tsujihara, who took the chief executive's post in March, replacing Barry Meyer, with a field that is cleared of his former competitors for the top job. He also has a management structure that is spread, in both movies and television, among lieutenants who had been overseeing operations under Robinov and Rosenblum. □

Neiman Marcus plans to raise up to \$100M in IPO

ANNE D'INNOCENZIO
MICHELLE CHAPMAN

AP Business Writers

NEW YORK (AP) — Luxury retailer Neiman Marcus plans to raise up to \$100 million by returning to the stock market with an initial public offering.

That amount is likely to change, though, as bankers gauge investor interest. The plan to go public, announced in a regulatory filing Monday, comes about eight years after private equity firms TPG Capital and Warburg Pincus bought Neiman Marcus for \$5.1 billion.

Neiman Marcus has benefited from affluent shoppers who are willing to drop \$1,000 for a pair of stilettos. During the recession, Neiman Marcus was not as hurt by the consumer spending pullback as other retailers, because the wealthy suffered less in the poor economy.

Still, the initial public offering comes at a time when the stock market, which influences luxury spending, has become volatile.

Neiman Marcus won't receive any proceeds from the offering. The Dallas company operates 41 Neiman Marcus stores, two Bergdorf Goodman locations, and 35 discount shops under the Last Call brand. It also operates six Cusp stores, which cater to younger customers.

The Wall Street Journal article reported in late May that Neiman Marcus recently rebuffed a proposal that would involve buyout

firm KKR & Co. investing in competitor Saks Inc., the operator of Saks Fifth Avenue, and then engineering a combination of Saks and Neiman.

According to the Journal, Neiman Marcus turned down the proposal for several reasons, including the terms and the complexity of the deal. At the time, Neiman's private equity owners were looking to sell the company outright or take it public.

The Wall Street Journal reported Monday on its website that Canadian department store operator and Lord & Taylor parent Hudson's Bay has now emerged as a potential suitor for Saks Inc. It cited an anonymous source familiar

with the issue. Hudson Bay could not be immediately reached for comment. A Saks spokeswoman declined to comment.

Dan Hess, CEO of Merchant Forecast, an independent research firm that monitors the retail sector, believes that an initial public offering would do well and that there's an investor appetite for luxury companies.

Neiman Marcus, founded in 1907 by Herbert Marcus Sr., his sister Carrie Marcus, and her husband A.L. Neiman, has had a series of owners during its rich history.

The company was sold to department store operator Broadway-Hale in 1969 and began planning na-

tional expansion outside of Texas. Through a series of deals, the retailer came under the ownership of the conglomerate Harcourt General, which also published textbooks and owned movie theaters.

In 1999, Harcourt General spun off Neiman Marcus stores and Bergdorf Goodman as its separate, publicly traded entity, the Neiman Marcus Group. In 2005, the current owners took the company private. Neiman Marcus has a long-held reputation for coddling its wealthy shoppers with customer service that goes above and beyond the standard. In 1984, it established InCircle, the industry's first customer loyalty program. □



The Chicago skyline is reflected in the exterior of Neiman Marcus on Michigan Avenue in Chicago. Luxury retailer Neiman Marcus plans to raise up to \$100 million from an initial public offering of its common stock, according to reports, Monday, June 24, 2013.

(AP Photo/M. Spencer Green)

European Commission approves NYSE takeover

BRUSSELS (AP) — The European Commission on Monday approved InterContinentalExchange's proposed \$8.2 billion takeover of NYSE-Euronext, saying the two are not direct competitors in most markets and will continue to face strong competition from other exchanges.

ICE, based in Atlanta, Georgia, is best known as a commodities marketplace. It announced its stock-and-cash offer for NYSE-Euronext, valued at \$33.12 per share, in De-

cember.

The deal will give ICE control of the New York Stock Exchange and London-based Liffe, Europe's second-largest derivatives market. "The market investigation revealed that they do not exert a greater potential competitive threat on each other compared to other exchanges," the Commission said in a statement detailing its decision. "Any anticompetitive effects can therefore be excluded."

The combined ICE-NYSE

Euronext is slated to become the third-largest exchange group globally, behind Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing and CME Group.

Commission approval had been widely expected: after a joint bid for NYSE-Euronext by ICE and Nasdaq failed last year, ICE had proactively asked the Commission to examine the new bid.

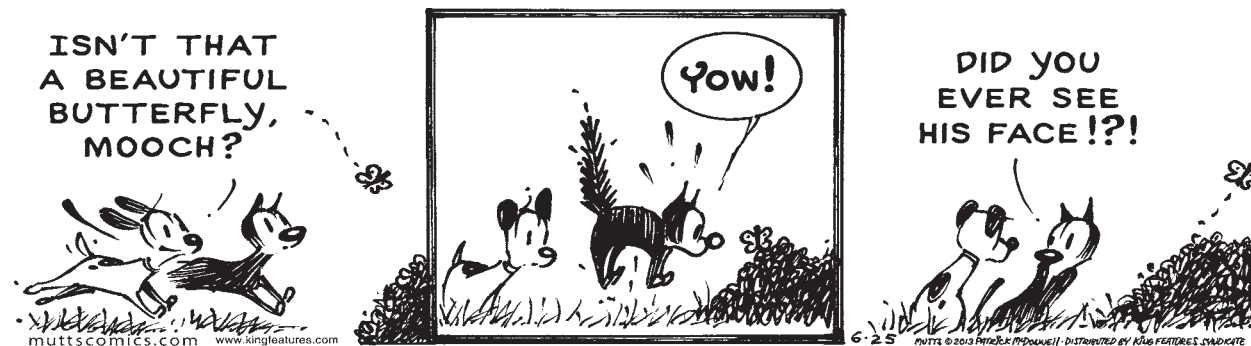
The Commission said it had examined in particular markets for agricultural commodities, as well as

U.S. equity index derivatives.

"The Commission's investigation found that the proposed transaction would not raise competition concerns in any of these fields, as NYX and ICE are offering contracts belonging to different product markets so their activities do not overlap," the Commission said in a statement.

The deal was approved by NYSE-Euronext shareholders earlier this month and is expected to close in the second half of 2013. □

Mutts



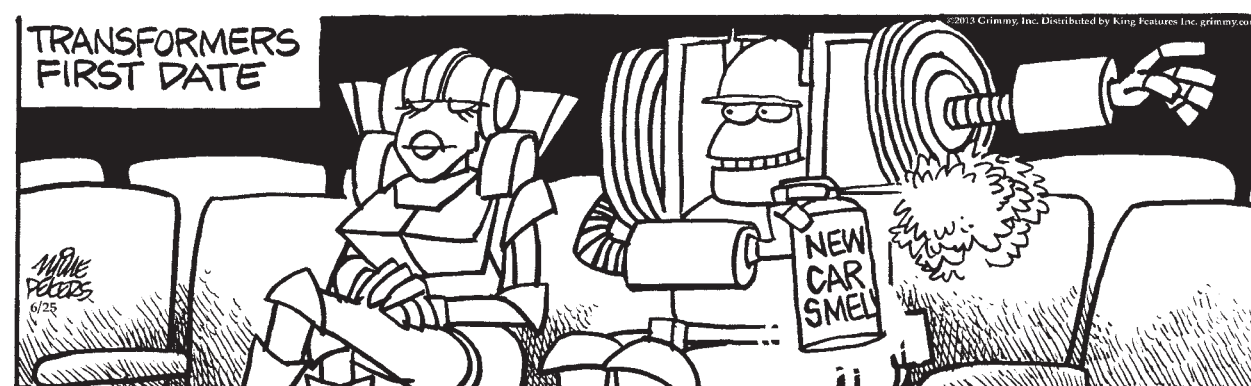
6 Chix



Blondie



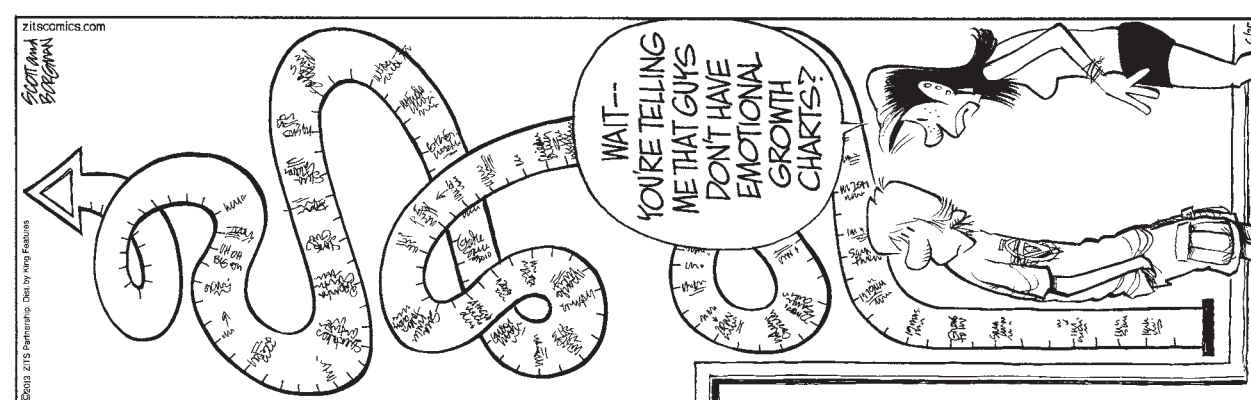
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

			5	8	1			
7		5		6		3		2
6	3		7		2		8	5
1	5		4		6		2	9
9		7		4		6		8
			6	1	3			

Difficulty Level ★★

6/25

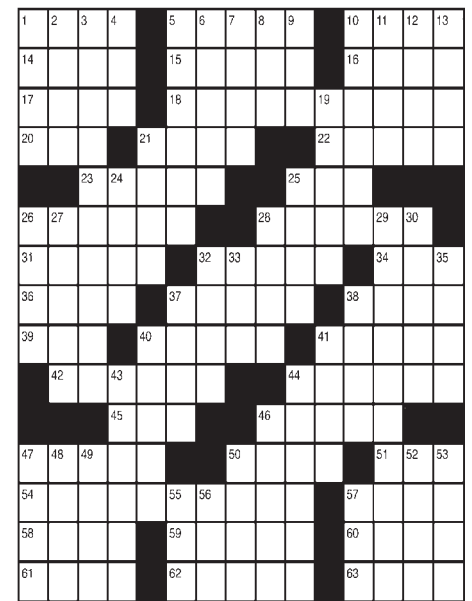
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

4	3	9	6	5	8	1	7	2
8	7	6	1	2	4	3	9	5
1	5	2	3	9	7	6	4	8
9	8	1	2	4	6	5	3	7
3	2	4	5	7	1	9	8	6
5	6	7	8	3	9	2	1	4
2	9	8	7	1	5	4	6	3
7	4	3	9	6	2	8	5	1
6	1	5	4	8	3	7	2	9

ACROSS

- Landing place
- Panama hat material
- Thailand, once
- more; a second time
- Came up
- Ice cream scoop holder
- Red octagonal street sign
- Potatoes for breakfast, often
- 2,000 pounds
- Marathon
- in; flooded with
- Plain to see
- of Olay; skin care product
- Fleet of ships
- fir; tree that secretes resin
- Harness straps
- Iranian rulers
- Hobo
- Police spray
- Japanese three-line poem
- Flexible tube
- Hot tub
- Pricey booking at a hotel
- Even; smooth
- On an incline
- Least tainted
- Faux; social blunder
- Tree with pods that taste like chocolate
- Review of the financial books
- Lose color
- Bumpkin
- Official list of school grades
- Volcanic output
- Bad guy
- External
- Actress Moran
- Household animals
- Emotional
- At with; opposed to



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

6/25/13

Monday's Puzzle Solved

DOWN

- Pillar
- 5 10 is 2
- Cost-effective member: abbr.
- Legislature
- African desert
- Stretch of land
- Pete or Charlie
- Bit of soot
- Spider's creation
- Disapproving looks
- Des Moines, —
- Jillian & Blyth
- Fit together, as gear teeth
- Banisters
- Ruby & scarlet
- Weathercock
- Hawaiian island
- Weapons
- Gathers crops
- Cook a cake
- Candid; open
- Ponders
- Uttered
- Strike

TOO	IDAHO	DIPS
ANNS	NIXON	ECHO
NECK	VALUE	VEIL
SEAFARERS	IDLE	
TIDY	ITS	
UMPIRE	REDHEADS	
RAINS	PAYEE	DEN
BING	LINED	GENE
ANT	SONGS	LAPSE
NEOPHYTE	POSTER	
YEA	CLOP	
PANT	LUCRATIVE	
UTAH	ISAAC	NERD
SOSO	SENSE	GAGA
SPAN	TRESS	LOB

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6/25/13

- Dissolve
- Colors
- Long sandwich
- Quarrels
- Attract; draw
- Gives one's views
- Meager
- Playful leap
- Sitting upon
- Yen; craving
- Move quickly
- Pocket bread
- Gung-ho
- Supporters
- Portable bed
- Have regrets
- Zodiac sign

Messages galore, but no time to think

PHYLLIS KORKKI

© 2013 New York Times

I'm old enough to remember a simpler time in the office, when talking - whether in person or on the phone - was the main way to communicate. I once had a job where I filled out those pink "While You Were Out" slips for employees who had stepped away from their desks.

Then, in the 1990s, came email, and things were never the same. Besides delivering a serious blow to the sellers of those pieces of paper, email made communicating with people incredibly - and, at first, delightfully - easy.

Now, a few decades later, people constantly complain that their email inboxes are unmanageable. And many more technologies have joined the workplace party. We can now use cellphones, texts, instant messaging, text messaging, social media, corporate intranets and cloud applications to communicate at work.

Something may have been lost as we adopted these new communication tools: the ability to concentrate. "Nobody can think anymore, because they're constantly interrupted," said Leslie Perlow, a Harvard Business School professor and author of "Sleeping With Your Smartphone." "Technology has enabled this expectation that we always be on." Workers fear the repercussions that could result if they are unavailable, she said.

The intermingling of work and personal life adds to the onslaught, as people communicate about personal topics during the workday, and about work topics when they are at home.

According to a 2011 article in The Ergonomics Open Journal, electronic communication tools can demand constant switching, which contributes to a feeling of "discontinuity" in the workplace. On the other hand, people sometimes deliberately introduce interruptions into their day as a way to reduce boredom

and to socialize, the article said. We're only beginning to understand the workplace impact of new communication tools. The use of such technology in the office is "less rational than

they will bring other people along with them." More tech-oriented types might favor the latest new communication "toy," while others, like me, are less enthusiastic. In the

many cases this is a collective, team-level issue, Perlow said.

As Whittaker put it, "We haven't stabilized our regular practices," and these may need to be negotiated among workers. It's important to distinguish between collaborative and one-on-one communication, he said. Cloud-based systems are meant for sharing and editing documents, and they can enable people in different cities to work together in real time. Internal social media pages can be useful for seeking and sharing knowledge.

But when one person wants to communicate with another privately, email remains the go-to method, Whittaker said. That's why it is nearly universal, despite a general yearning for something better. To lessen the disruptive nature of email and other messages, teams need to discuss how to alter their work process to allow blocks of time where they can disconnect entirely, Perlow said. □



Email, a once delightful tool for easy office communication, has now become unmanageable while many more forms of office communication technology have been unloaded into the workplace. (Cun Shi/The New York Times)

we would like to think," said Steve Whittaker a professor of human-computer interaction at the University of California, Santa Cruz. Sometimes, "it's one person who's an evangelist," he said. "They will start using a particular thing, and

name of simplicity, I even try to avoid instant messaging, but I also can't help worrying that I am missing out. Plenty of workplace advice focuses on how we, as individuals, can manage our technology, but in

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Medicine that monitors you from the inside out

NICK BILTON

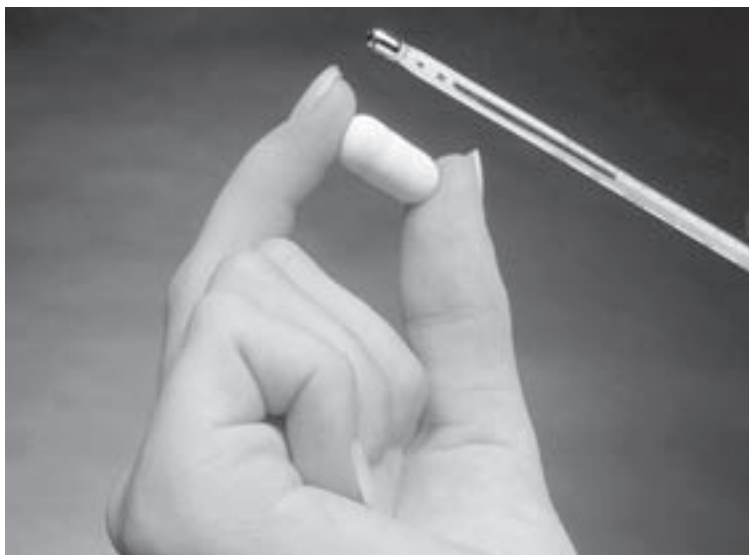
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SAN FRANCISCO - They look like normal pills, oblong and a little smaller than a daily vitamin. But if your physician writes a prescription for these pills in the not-too-distant future, you might hear a new twist on an old cliché: "Take two of these ingestible computers, and they will email me in the morning."

As society struggles with the privacy implications of wearable computers like Google Glass, scientists, researchers and some start-ups are already preparing the next, even more intrusive wave of computing: ingestible computers and minuscule sensors stuffed inside pills. Although these tiny devices are not yet mainstream, some people on the cutting edge are already swallowing them to monitor a range of health data and wirelessly share this information with a doctor. And there are prototypes of tiny, ingestible devices that can do things like automatically open car doors or fill in passwords. For people in extreme professions, like space travel, various versions of these pills have been used for

some time. But in the next year, your family physician - at least if he is technologically savvy - could also

but is in fact a microscopic robot, which will monitor your systems" and wirelessly transmit what is hap-



Introducing the CorTemp pill, from HQ Inc., which has a built-in battery and wirelessly transmits real-time body temperature. Scientists, researchers and some start-ups are preparing the next, even more intrusive wave of computing: ingestible computers and sensors in pills.

(HQ, Inc. via The New York Times)

have them in his medicinal tool kit. Inside these pills are tiny sensors and transmitters. You swallow them with water, or milk if you'd prefer. After that, the devices make their way to the stomach and stay intact as they travel through the intestinal tract.

"You will - voluntarily, I might add - take a pill, which you think of as a pill

pening, Eric E. Schmidt, the executive chairman of Google, said last fall at a company conference. "If it makes the difference between health and death, you're going to want this thing."

One of the pills, made by Proteus Digital Health, a small company in Redwood City, Calif., does not need a battery. Instead,

the body is the power source. Just as a potato can power a light bulb, Proteus has added magnesium and copper on each side of its tiny sensor, which generates just enough electricity from stomach acids.

As a Proteus pill hits the bottom of the stomach, it sends information to a cellphone app through a patch worn on the body. The tiny computer can track medication-taking behaviors - "did Grandma take her pills today, and what time?" - and monitor how a patient's body is responding to medicine. It also detects the person's movements and rest patterns.

Executives at the company, which recently raised \$62.5 million from investors, say they believe that these pills will help patients with physical and neurological problems. People with heart failure-related difficulties could monitor blood flow and body temperature; those with central nervous system issues, including schizophrenia and Alzheimer's disease, could take the pills to monitor vital signs in real time. The Food and Drug Admin-

istration approved the Proteus pill last year.

A pill called the CorTemp Ingestible Core Body Temperature Sensor, made by HQ Inc. in Palmetto, Fla., has a built-in battery and wirelessly transmits real-time body temperature as it travels through a person. Firefighters, football players, soldiers and astronauts have used the device so their employers can monitor them and ensure they do not overheat in high temperatures. CorTemp began in 2006 as a research collaboration from the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Lee Carbonelli, HQ's marketing director, said the company hoped, in the next year, to have a consumer version that would wirelessly communicate to a smartphone app.

Future generations of these pills could even be convenience tools. Last month, Regina Dugan, senior vice president for Motorola Mobility's advanced technology and projects group, showed off an example, along with wearable radio frequency identification tattoos that attach to the skin like a sticker, at the D: All Things Digital technology conference.

Once that pill is in your body, you could pick up your smartphone and not have to type in a password. Instead, you are the password.

Sit in the car and it will start. Touch the handle to your home door and it will automatically unlock. "Essentially, your entire body becomes your authentication token," Dugan said.

But if people are worried about the privacy implications of wearable computing devices, just wait until they try to wrap their heads around ingestible computing. "This is yet another one of these technologies where there are wonderful options and terrible options, simultaneously," said John Perry Barlow, a founder of the Electronic Frontier Foundation, a privacy advocacy group. □

2 Russian astronauts tackle chores in spacewalk

MARCIA DUNN

AP Aerospace Writer

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida

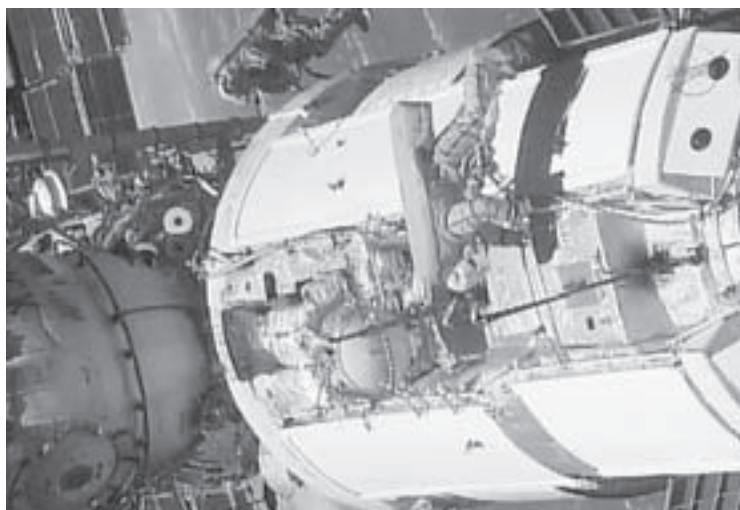
(AP) — Two space station astronauts took care of a little outside maintenance Monday. Russian flight engineers Fyodor Yurchikhin and Alexander Misurkin replaced a main valve on the International Space Station and prepared for the arrival of a new lab later this year. "To save the time, I'm embroidering," one of the spacewalkers said in Russian, holding a clump of cord as he worked. "It's not easy to handle all these ropes." Later, he added, "OK, now we're doing beadwork."

Besides the valve swap 250 miles (400 kilometers) up, the spacewalkers installed clamps and retrieved science experiments, com-

pleting most all their chores. The spacewalk ran a little over at 6½ hours. "Thank you for your work," radioed Russian Mission Control outside Moscow.

It was the year's third spacewalk. The four other space station residents monitored the action from inside.

Yurchikhin arrived at the



In this frame grab from video provided by NASA, two Russian flight engineers perform maintenance on the International Space Station, Monday, June 24, 2013. The crew includes three Russians, two Americans and one Italian. The Italian and one American will conduct a pair of spacewalks for NASA in July.

(AP Photo/NASA)

space station just a few weeks ago. Misurkin has been on board since March. The crew includes three Russians, two Americans and one Italian. The Italian and one American will conduct a pair of spacewalks for NASA in July. Begun in 1998, the space station still is one room short. The Russian Space Agency plans to launch a research lab by year's end to replace the Pirs air lock that has been in place since 2001. An unmanned Proton rocket will hoist the lab, which also will serve as an air lock for spacewalk preparations and a docking port for visiting craft. As for Pirs — Russian for pier — it will be cut loose before the launch of its replacement and burn up upon re-entry as junk. □

Film Review:

'Homegoings': Finding honor in the final send-off

ANDY WEBSTER

© 2013 New York Times

The morbid meets the deeply spiritual in Chris-

tine Turner's assured documentary "Homegoings," a portrait of Isaiah Owens, a Harlem undertaker, as he

practices his profession: embalming and touching up human remains for display at viewings, and di-

recting mourners and pallbearers at burial and memorial services.

But the film, produced in part by the public-television series "POV," and to be broadcast Monday, in addition to a weeklong stint at a theater in New York, is also a portrait of a sacrament as practiced in an African-American community, and a celebration of tradition, with public funeral marches (at one point a white-gloved and behatted Owens leads a procession including a hearse and horse-drawn buggy) and passionate gospel music.

Owens, who grew up in South Carolina, felt his calling early on, staging animal burials as a child, and he speaks with authority about the history of his trade as it existed in the days of segregation.

In clinical passages - during the actual preparation

of the bodies - the camera is tastefully employed, not too distant but not too close. (The squeamish may flinch, but Turner knows when to cut away.)

The earnest, affable Owens is all about respect: to his mother at her 95th birthday party, to those who have recently died, to those preparing to do so and to the bereaved. Turner captures the intimacy of solemn, heartfelt moments, and salutes a man who honors their value.

The film is preceded by "StoryCorps: A Selection of Short Films," animated accounts derived from segments on NPR's "Morning Edition," in which Americans share stories from their past. The images, by the Rauch Bros., have charm; the stories, as their radio listeners know, are invariably compelling. □



An undated handout photo of Isaiah Owens in Christine Turner's documentary "Homegoings." Turner's film profiles Owens, a funeral director in Harlem, and all that goes into his work.

(Christine Turner/The New York Times)

Wallenda completes tightrope walk near Grand Canyon

FELICIA FONSECA

Associated Press

LITTLE COLORADO RIVER GORGE, Arizona (AP) — Florida aerialist Nik Wallenda completed a tightrope walk that took him a quarter mile over the Little Colorado River Gorge in northeastern Arizona this weekend.

Wallenda performed the stunt on a 2-inch (50.8-millimeter)-thick steel cable, 1,500 feet (457.2 meters) above the river on the Navajo Nation near the Grand Canyon. He took just more than 22 minutes, pausing and crouching twice as winds whipped around him so that he could get "the rhythm out of the rope."

"Thank you Lord. Thank you for calming that cable, God," he said about 13 minutes into the walk.

Wallenda didn't wear a harness and stepped slowly and steady throughout, murmuring prayers to Jesus almost constantly along the way. He jogged and hopped the last few steps. The event was broadcast

live on the Discovery Channel.

Winds blowing across the gorge were expected to be around 30 mph (48 kph). Wallenda told Discovery after the walk that the winds were at times "unpredictable" and that dust

had accumulated on and around his contact lenses.

"It was way more windy and it took every bit of me to stay focused the entire time," he said.

The 34-year-old Wallenda is a seventh-generation high-wire artist and is part of the

famous "Flying Wallendas" circus family — a clan that is no stranger to death-defying feats.

His great-grandfather, Karl Wallenda, fell during a performance in Puerto Rico and died at the age of 73. Several other family mem-

bers, including a cousin and an uncle, have perished while performing wire walking stunts.

Nik Wallenda grew up performing with his family and has dreamed of crossing the Grand Canyon since he was a teenager.

Sunday's stunt comes a year after he traversed Niagara Falls earning a seventh Guinness world record.

Wallenda wore a microphone and two cameras, one that looked down on the dry Little Colorado River bed and one that faced straight ahead. His leather shoes with an elk-skin sole helped him keep a grip on the steel cable as he moved across.

About 600 spectators watching on a large video screen on site cheered him on as he walked toward them.

Wallenda told reporters after the walk that he hoped his next stunt would be a tightrope walk between the Empire State building and the Chrysler building in New York. □



In this photo provided by the Discovery Channel, aerialist Nik Wallenda walks a 2-inch-thick steel cable taking him a quarter mile over the Little Colorado River Gorge, Ariz. The daredevil successfully traversed the tightrope strung 1,500 feet above the chasm near the Grand Canyon in just more than 22 minutes, pausing and crouching twice as winds whipped around him and the cable swayed.

(AP Photos/Discovery Channel, Tiffany Brown)

Carrey:

'Kick-Ass 2' too violent after massacre

JAKE COYLE

AP Entertainment Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Jim Carrey is distancing himself from his own movie, saying a Connecticut school shooting massacre

six adults. But weeks before it opens in theaters, Carrey took the highly unusual step of condemning the violence of a film he stars in. "Now in all good conscience I cannot support

11-year-old fighting machine Hit-Girl, played by Chloe Grace Moretz. She reprises the role in the sequel, which Universal Pictures will release Aug. 16. Carrey plays a vigilante

post saying he's "baffled" by Carrey's announcement.

"Yes, the body count is very high, but a movie called 'Kick-Ass 2' really has to do what it says on the tin," wrote Millar. "A sequel to the picture that gave us Hit-Girl was always going to have some blood on the floor and this should have been no shock to a guy who enjoyed the first movie so much."

Millar said the film "isn't a documentary," and questioned whether violence in fiction is connected to real-life violence "any more than Harry Potter casting a spell creates more boy wizards."

Carrey was outspoken about gun violence following the Sandy Hook shooting.

In February when gun sales were increasing, he tweeted that anyone "who would run out to buy an assault rifle after the Newtown massacre has very little left in their body or soul worth protecting." □



This film publicity image released by Universal Pictures shows actor Jim Carrey portraying Colonel Stars and Stripes in a scene from "Kick-Ass 2." (AP Photo/Universal Pictures)

changed his perspective on the violence in his upcoming action comedy "Kick-Ass 2."

The actor filmed his part in the superhero vigilante film a month before December's mass shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary school that killed 20 children and

that level of violence," Carrey said Sunday on Twitter. He apologized to others in the film and added: "I am not ashamed of it but recent events have caused a change in my heart."

"Kick-Ass 2" is a sequel to the 2010 movie whose breakout star was the

named Colonel Stars and Stripes.

A spokesman for Universal said the studio declined to comment.

But a producer on the film, Mark Millar, who wrote the "Kick-Ass" comic books the movies are based on, responded in a lengthy blog

Hollywood mourns G.D. Goldberg

FRAZIER MOORE

AP Television Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Gary David Goldberg, who created the 1980s sitcom hit "Family Ties" and expanded into feature films, has died.

Goldberg died of brain cancer in Montecito, California, on Saturday, days before his 69th birthday, The New York Times reported.

Goldberg's TV successes also included the ABC comedy "Spin City," which in 1996 reunited him with "Family Ties" breakout star Michael J. Fox as the deputy mayor of New York City. "With a full heart I say goodbye to my mentor, benefactor, partner, second father and beloved friend," Fox said in a statement on Monday. "He touched so many with his enormous talent and generous spirit. He changed my life profoundly."

A more modest hit for Goldberg yet much-acclaimed, CBS' "Brooklyn Bridge" (1991-93) was a tender comedy based on his experiences growing up in Brooklyn, New York. Marion Ross starred as a character inspired by his grandmother.

Goldberg's films included "Dad" (1989), starring Jack Lemmon and Ted Danson, as well as "Bye Bye Love" (1995) and "Must Love Dogs" (2005), which he wrote as well as directed.

His own dog, Ubu, contributed the name of his production company and was widely known from the on-screen credit where viewers heard the command, "Sit, Ubu, sit," then a bark. Goldberg began his TV career in the 1970s as a writer for series including "The Bob Newhart Show," and was a producer of "Lou Grant."

In 1982 "Family Ties" premiered on NBC, introducing Michael J. Fox as a business-loving Young Republican son of left-wing baby boomers who were former hippies. □

Gucci predicts a summer full of flowers

DANIELA PETROFF

AP Fashion Writer

MILAN (AP) — The Gucci menswear collection for next summer is short and very sweet.

When after only 10 minutes the models returned to the runway for the finale parade, the fashion crowd still had their notebooks open waiting for more of creative director Frida Giannini's romantic take on next summer.

The show presented Monday, the third day of Milan fashion week, is all about flowers, even if the collection's silhouette is classic from the blazer to the iconic riding pants.

Flowers show up everywhere from embroidery on the cotton knit sweaters to the floral prints that tinge pants, T-shirts, suits and a reinvented Mackintosh raincoat. Floral prints are also used for a silk jumpsuit and the latest Gucci jack-



A model wears a creation for Gucci men's Spring-Summer 2014 collection, part of the Milan Fashion Week, unveiled in Milan, Italy, Monday, June 24, 2013. (AP Photo/Giuseppe Aresu)

et, in the style of a shirt, a popular look on the current Milan runway.

The prints are mostly gleaned from the Gucci archives, but the March 2 birth of Greta could also be responsible for mamma Giannini's romantic mood.

The summer color palette ranges from neutral white, gray and beige to blue and bordeaux, to flashes of military green, yellow and coral. Demure mini polka dots for shirts and trousers is another favorite pattern. According to the fashion notes, the inspiration is the silk tie pattern, but how about baby clothes?

Novelty in the accessory department comes in the classic leather sneaker which accompanied every outfit, and the dual purpose weekend bag which turns from shopper into maxi back pack. □

Border Surge Meets Bluster Surge



CHARLES M. BLOW
© 2013 New York Times

Pro-immigration senators are now proposing a "border surge." In an effort to secure passage of the embattled immigration bill, two Republicans, Bob Corker and John Hoeven, are proposing an amendment that would, according to The New York Times, call for an increase in "the current border patrol force to 40,000 agents from 21,000, as well as for the completion of 700 miles of fence on the nation's southern border."

The Times continued, "The additional border agents, the senators said, would cost roughly \$25 billion."

Sen. John McCain, a member of the Gang of Eight that drafted the original legislation, spoke of his support of the amendment to Fox News on Friday, saying, "If there's anyone who still will argue that the border's not secure after this, then border security is not their reason for opposing a path to citizenship for the people who are in this country illegally." McCain is hinting at something that I'll say outright: Opposition to a path to citizenship among many Republicans isn't about border security; it's about complexions and elections.

Many see a pathway to citizenship as a poison pill for the party. No amount of "surging" can sugarcoat it. (Even if the bill passes in the Senate, its prospects in the House remain dubious, because Republicans there refuse to be wrangled. This week, they voted down the Farm Bill that the House Republicans proposed.)

Neal Boortz, a retired radio talk show host who refers to himself on his website as "Mighty Whitey" and who was inducted into the National Radio Hall of Fame in 2009 by, of all people, Rush Limbaugh, took to Twitter on Friday shortly after McCain's Fox appearance, declaring: "Founders never intended that all people vote ... and certainly not people who brazenly broke our laws to get here."

This one statement outlines the whole of the problem with conservative opposition to comprehensive immigration reform. It harkens to ideas of nativism, racism, misogyny, elitism and inequality from which the country is moving forward, but for which some conservatives still yearn.

Boortz is right that when this country was founded very few people could vote - in most cases that meant white men with property and considerable wealth. The founders were wise, but they were subject to the prevailing wisdoms and possessed of a profound sense of privilege. That is the problem with venerating them as all-knowing. On some things - like the idea that an America born on the principles of freedom would inexorably drift toward universal equality - they were shortsighted.

Furthermore, Boortz's comment embodies the torturing of historical realities that is now so widespread among the immigration gate-closers.

As Elizabeth F. Cohen, the author of "Semi-Citizenship in Democratic Politics" and an associate professor at Syracuse University's Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, argued in The Washington Post in February:

"During the 18th century, there were no illegal immigrants in the United States, but there was a large group of people who posed a far more noxious threat than those who overstayed a visa or crossed a border without an inspection. They were British loyalists - men who had taken up arms against the American revolutionaries and risked their lives to undermine the very foundation of our union."

Cohen pointed out that although the loyalists fought against the union, many sought citizenship after the war. They were about 20 percent of the population. The Supreme Court would later decide that they were eligible for citizenship.

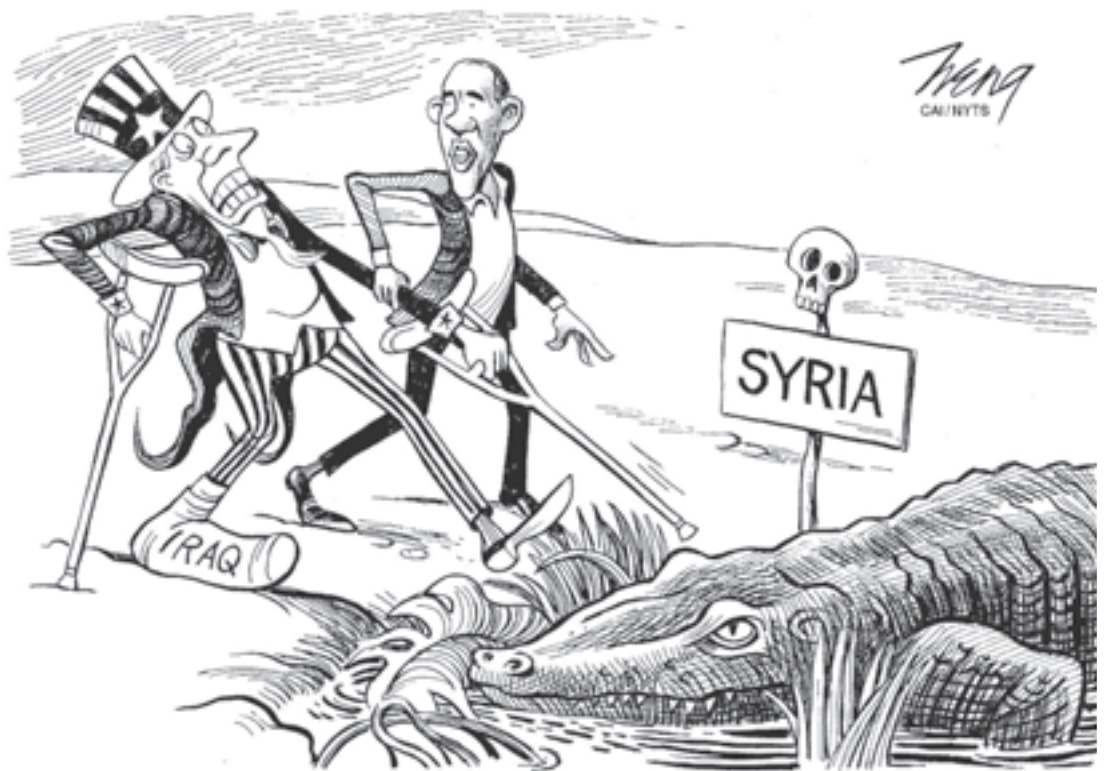
As Cohen put it: "This and later decisions showed how, over time, the country exercised reason and consent to create citizenship - even allowing the original sin of fighting against the formation of the nation to be forgiven."

If that "sin" can be forgiven, why is it that modern conservatives find it so hard to imagine forgiving people who illegally crossed a border or who overstayed a visa? There are many differences between yesterday's loyalists and today's "illegals," but an obvious one is, quite literally, only skin deep.

According to the Pew Research Center, "Mexicans account for almost 60 percent of the unauthorized immigrants in the United States," and many others are Hispanics from other countries.

After years of hostility - both rhetorical and legislative - toward Hispanics that has pushed them away from the Republicans and into the arms of the Democrats, many hard-line conservatives are now playing the only card they have left: opposition to so-called amnesty, at all costs.

It's a bluster surge, and it won't easily be undone or forgotten, whether this Senate bill lives or dies. □



Profits Without Production



PAUL KRUGMAN
© 2013 New York Times

One lesson from recent economic troubles has been the usefulness of history. Just as the crisis was unfolding, the Harvard economists Carmen Reinhart and Kenneth Rogoff - who unfortunately became famous for their worst work - published a brilliant book with the sarcastic title "This Time Is Different."

Their point, of course, was that there is a strong family resemblance among crises. Indeed, historical parallels - not just to the 1930s, but to Japan in the 1990s, Britain in the 1920s, and more - have been vital guides to the present.

Yet economies do change over time, and sometimes in fundamental ways. So what's really different about America in the 21st century?

The most significant answer, I'd suggest, is the growing importance of monopoly rents: profits that don't represent returns on investment, but instead reflect the value of market dominance. Sometimes that dominance seems deserved, sometimes not; but, either way, the growing importance of rents is producing a new disconnect between profits and production and may be a factor prolonging the slump.

To see what I'm talking about, consider the differences between the iconic companies of two different eras: General Motors in the 1950s and 1960s, and

Apple today.

Obviously, GM in its heyday had a lot of market power. Nonetheless, the company's value came largely from its productive capacity: It owned hundreds of factories and employed around 1 percent of the total nonfarm workforce.

Apple, by contrast, seems barely tethered to the material world. Depending on the vagaries of its stock price, it's either the highest-valued or the second-highest-valued company in America, but it employs less than 0.05 percent of our workers.

To some extent, that's because it has outsourced almost all its production overseas. But the truth is that the Chinese aren't making that much money from Apple sales either. To a large extent, the price you pay for an iPhone is disconnected from the cost of producing the gadget. Apple simply charges what the traffic will bear, and given the strength of its market position, the traffic will bear a lot.

Again, I'm not making a moral judgment here. You can argue that Apple earned its special position - although I'm not sure how many would make a similar claim for Microsoft, which made huge profits for many years, let alone for the financial industry, which is also marked by a lot of what look like monopoly rents, and these days accounts for roughly 30 percent of total corporate profits.

Anyway, whether corporations deserve their privileged status or not, the economy is affected, and not in a good way, when profits increasingly reflect market power rather than production.

Here's an example. As many economists have lately been pointing out, these days the old story about rising inequality, in which it was driven by a growing premium on skill, has lost whatever relevance it may have had. Since around 2000, the big story has, instead, been one of a sharp shift in the distribution of income

away from wages in general, and toward profits. But here's the puzzle: Since profits are high while borrowing costs are low, why aren't we seeing a boom in business investment? And, no, investment isn't depressed because President Barack Obama has hurt the feelings of business leaders or because they're terrified by the prospect of universal health insurance.

Well, there's no puzzle here if rising profits reflect rents, not returns on investment.

A monopolist can, after all, be highly profitable yet see no good reason to expand its productive capacity.

And Apple again provides a case in point: It is hugely profitable, yet it's sitting on a giant pile of cash, which it evidently sees no need to reinvest in its business.

Or to put it differently, rising monopoly rents can and arguably have had the effect of simultaneously depressing both wages and the perceived return on investment.

You might suspect that this can't be good for the broader economy, and you'd be right. If household income and hence household spending is held down because labor gets an ever-smaller share of national income, while corporations, despite soaring profits, have little incentive to invest, you have a recipe for persistently depressed demand. I don't think this is the only reason our recovery has been so weak - weak recoveries are normal after financial crises - but it's probably a contributory factor.

Just to be clear, nothing I've said here makes the lessons of history irrelevant. In particular, the widening disconnect between profits and production does nothing to weaken the case for expansionary monetary and fiscal policy as long as the economy stays depressed. But the economy is changing, and in future columns I'll try to say something about what that means for policy. □

An emerging Hispanic voice defends her 'Maids'

TANZINA VEGA

© 2013 New York Times

LOS ANGELES - At a premiere party at the Spanish-colonial-style Bel-Air Bay Club last week for the new Lifetime show "Devious Maids," the center of attention was not the five actresses who play the lead characters, Latina maids who cook, clean and scheme while looking after wealthy white families in Beverly Hills.

Instead, the spotlight fell on one of the executive producers, Eva Longoria, better known for her own role as the wealthy Gabrielle Solis on "Desperate Housewives." She worked the room like a politician, making grand introductions punctuated by a bright smile and a hug and a kiss on the cheek, and holding barely audible conversations.

Her biggest priority was to check in on each of "the girls" - as she called the five actresses - to see how they had fared on the red carpet. Nine years ago Longoria was a young, relatively unknown actress in the cast of "Desperate Housewives." But then she changed the script, positioning herself as a Hollywood power player on Latino issues and a highly regarded political advocate.

Now she finds herself in a position of having to defend her latest project against critics who say the show relies too much on the cliché of the Hispanic maid.

"When people talk about stereotypical maids, these maids are anything but," Longoria, 38, said over a long lunch at the Chateau Marmont in West Hollywood two days before the premiere party. She said future plot points would reveal more developed people.

She was eager to counter the negative reactions to the show.

"I think it's important for us to have a dialogue of identity in our culture, and even though this show may not be your experience, it is a lot of people's experi-

ence," she said. Latinos, she added, "over-index in domestic workers: That is a fact, that's not an opinion."

The ratings for the premiere of "Devious Maids," at 10 on Sunday night, were modest. Going up against the season finale of AMC's "Mad Men," the show attracted 2 million viewers, slightly below the Lifetime show that preceded it at 9, "Drop Dead Diva" (2.2 million).

Longoria's rise as a media force has been paralleled by her political ascent. She stumped for President Barack Obama in 2012, helping round up critical Hispanic voters, and she was a founder of the Futuro Fund, which raised \$32 million for the campaign. She recently spoke at the Clinton Global Initiative in Chicago; left a few days later for Colombia to film a documentary for the Half the Sky Movement, an international women's advocacy group; and signed on to a fundraising drive for the political group Battleground Texas, whose goal is to raise money to "put Democrats back on the map" in the state, in the words of her message on the group's home page.

And in May she completed a master's degree in Chicano studies from California State University, Northridge.

"I'm a little in awe in terms of how she's transformed herself," said Marc Cherry, an executive producer of both "Devious Maids" and "Desperate Housewives," who cast Longoria in 2004. "She was just an actress that had done a couple of prime-time shows and had done some daytime."

Before its debut, the criticism of "Devious Maids" included an open letter in The Huffington Post from Michelle Herrera Mulligan, the editor-in-chief of Cosmopolitan for Latinas, who called the show a "wasted opportunity." (Longoria had been on the magazine's spring cover months before Mulligan's letter was published online.)

Alisa Lynn Valdes, a former

journalist and author of the novel "The Dirty Girls Social Club," wrote a critical online opinion piece on NBC Latino.com about the show.

"It is not wrong to be a maid, or even a Latina maid," she wrote, "but there is something very

maid for having sex with the employer's husband.

"They are five strong, female, Latina characters, so it's like the three hurdles we had to overcome to get this on the air in Hollywood," said Longoria, who added that the show also has two Latina writers

Son ... la Alegría del Hogar" (literally, "They Are ... the Joy of the Home").

"I know that eyebrows are raised when a middle-aged balding white guy decided to write a show called 'Devious Maids' - I get it," Cherry said, adding that Longoria gave him her blessing to do the show with an all-Latina cast and is sent cuts and script drafts from each episode.

Longoria used her political clout and organizational ties for the show, which has garnered support from major Latino advocacy groups, including the Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund, the National Council of La Raza and the National Hispanic Media Coalition, a watchdog group for diversity in media.

"At some point she blossomed into this spokeswoman for the Latin community, as someone who was involved in political issues, meeting the president, going to the White House," Cherry said. "I became super impressed with her decision to lead a more meaningful life than your typical Hollywood actress."

Longoria has two shows in development, one about a Latina mother-and-daughter law firm, and another about two Hispanic politicians. "We are touching every part of the machine," she said. "And yes it's about giving opportunities. Who else is going to open the doors, who else is going to write these stories?"

Telling those stories could also help Longoria leverage her media following on to a larger stage. Henry R. Muñoz III, the finance chairman of the Democratic National Committee and a friend and a partner in the Futuro Fund, said he believed she would be "a formidable candidate" for public office.

But despite her political activity, Longoria says she is not interested.

"I don't need to be appointed or elected," she said. "You think Hollywood is nasty? Try D.C." □



Eva Longoria in West Hollywood, Calif. Nine years ago, Longoria was a young, relatively unknown actress on the cast of "Desperate Housewives," but she has changed the script, positioning herself as a Hollywood power player on Latino issues and a high regarded political advocate.

(Kevin Scanlon/The New York Times)

wrong with an American entertainment industry that continually tells Latinas that this is all they are or can ever be."

Most maids, however, don't sleep with their bosses. The show's first episode begins with a whopping, albeit campy, dose of classism, with an employer threatening to deport her

out of five. "You're never the lead, then if you are the lead, you are usually a lead that services the main character, which is a white male actor."

The executive producer Cherry said he called Longoria early on as he was considering making the English version of a Mexican telenovela, "Ellas